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STREET IN MORLAIX, BRITTANY.
SEE PAGE 176.

THE RECESS.

It has come at last—to the great relief of the public mind. The works, the blunders, the squabbles, the incessant talk, the unconscionable hours, the weariness and dreariness, of the Parliamentary Session are things of the past. Legislators and they for whom new laws have been made alike rejoice in being freed for a long interval from the drudgery they have lately undergone. Whatever results of a political kind the Lords may have prepared for the country there is no one, probably, who will not be pleased in his heart that at least they have saved it from an autumn Session. An autumn Session! Fancy, for a moment, what that means. It means a deep shadow of anticipation cast over the enjoyments of the recess. It means needed recreation cut short in the midst; long-cherished plans set aside as impracticable; hopeful visions of travel or of rest dissipated before they have been well realised; a recurrence of fatigue and vexation of spirit looming at no great distance, within sight of all, from the very beginning of the holidays. It means that sort of experience which we should fancy must be the lot of the bird whose range of flight, after it has been permitted to take wing, is measured by a string tied to its leg. It means, in a word, almost everything of a disagreeable kind, so near at hand that every joyous emotion raised by the thought of escape from labour is changed by the prospect into a dim shadow of itself—a faint pulsation that only mocks the full flow of life which the commencement of a holiday season is expected to set in motion. That grim spectre has vanished. For a little while it danced before us with threatening aspect. Thanks to the turn events have taken, it is gone, never more, we hope, to return.

Let us leave the past, or, if for a moment we turn back to bid adieu to it, let it be only to enhance, if possible, the sense of relief awakened by the present and the future. The Session of 1871 has been marked by traits of character which, perhaps, it were better not to dwell upon. It opened calmly, but its progress, after a very brief space of time, became fitful, wayward, and confused—full of disagreeable surprises, of blunders, of failures, and of toils ending in disappointment. We shall not trouble our readers, or ourselves, with any attempt to discover or explain the causes which led to this. We are not now in the mood, nor is this the proper time or place, to distribute fairly to each party its share of blame. Before Parliament is called together again angry feelings will have been composed, and reflection will, no doubt, point out to all concerned the moral which the late course of proceedings is fitted to impress upon them. But certainly it is to be hoped that we "ne'er shall look upon its like again." It resembled a dream the incidents of which, though constantly changing, are all of the same gloomy character—such a dream as comes from a fit of indigestion, in which the dreamer is perpetually striving to compass some aim and finds himself precluded from success by an unseen and unintelligible influence that paralyses his power. Yet the Session was not wholly without desirable results, even if in some cases those results were brought about by questionable forces. But it boots not now to recall a history which it is pleasanter to forget. We must take the bitter with the sweet, the good with the bad, that which can be approved with that which must be regretted. Time may, perhaps, disclose to us the final advantages which will come out of such a spell of apparently barren labour. In this hope let us leave it behind us, and comfort ourselves with the trust that some benefit to the Government, to Parliament, and to the public may hereafter arise from what now appears to be mainly valueless.

And now for a look forward into the recess. Endless are the modes of recreation which invite trial. Some will be off to the seaside to substitute for the dust, and noise, and traffic, and heat of a great city the tranquillity, the freshness, and the restfulness which a daily interview with Father Neptune almost infallibly breathes into jaded spirits. Some will betake themselves to their yachts, and feel their pleasure enhanced by a slight sense of peril, as they are borne from port to port over the uncertain waves. May propitious breezes fill their sails, and Heaven's protection avert from them all mishap! To a few, politics in their highest form will present the chief object of attraction, and a trip to the Western Hemisphere, to study the salient features of Democracy in the United States, will occupy the closing months of the year. Less intent on political knowledge than on health, many will find relaxation in France, in Germany, in Switzerland, as tourists; in Sweden and Norway, with fishing-tackle; or perhaps in the land of the Cid to observe old types of civilisation in a new light. Then, too, are there not the heaths and moors, the hills and dales, the broad commons and the quiet nooks of our own country, in not a few of which field sports promise to brace up shattered nerves, and where re-invigorated health may be found without painful looking for? A happy exchange—any one of them—for the ordinary work of the Session.

It does not invariably follow, nevertheless, that the recess will be turned to good account, physically or morally. It offers the opportunity; it remains for those to whom it is offered to make the most of it. They are really wise men who know how most pleasantly and profitably to spend their holidays. For, after all, leisure is a burden save as it can be utilised by culture. And, without doubt, the statesmen and legislators of these times need to keep their faculties awake even during the

recess. This is not difficult to any who take a real and earnest interest in the well-being of their country, or, perhaps we should rather say, of humanity. The problems of life, of society, of government, are almost endlessly various, and in one shape or another incessantly solicit attention. It is during the course of the Parliamentary recess that the best, because the most thoughtfully conceived and matured, legislative projects take their rise and assume their shape. It is then, if at all, that the elements of law are handled. While Parliament sits, and more especially of late years, the drive of occupation is so incessant that reflection is an almost impossible task. It is the time for action rather than for thought. It must be in days of leisure that the germs of great intellectual enterprises are sown and quickened. Things of "pith and moment" are usually born in quiet and silence, and the grandest triumphs of the loftiest statesmen commonly represent ideas and plans initiated in the recess.

Her Majesty's Ministers, we take for granted, will not fail, after due recruitment of their physical health, to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them by the holidays to review the political situation, and to decide how it may be best improved. We do not presume, of course, to share their responsibilities, nor shall we tender advice, than which, as nothing is more easy so nothing is more futile. But we shall conclude by expressing the hope that when the chiefs of the Government next assemble in Cabinet Council they will bear in mind that it is possible to attempt too much at once, and that if Parliament is to be successfully led on to grand achievements it must be led to them one at a time.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our Correspondent in Paris.)

Thursday, Aug. 24.

General Chanzy's motion for the dissolution of the National Guard still provokes much discussion out of doors, notwithstanding the unanimity of the Chamber. In the Assembly itself there is no uncertain deliverance; all have made up their minds as to its advisability, with the exception of the Extreme Left. This party, indeed, interrupted with continual cries the reading of the report, but could not baulk Chanzy of his eloquent peroration, nor of the applause it called down. They then combated the motion of urgency, which, however, was carried by a respectable majority. The Garde Nationale had few friends left, and these few only succeeded in heaping ridicule on a lost cause. Thus M. Henri Brisson, member for Paris, and sitting on the Left, is now reaping a harvest of derision for his unfortunate defence of the doomed force. "You must needs keep the National Guard," said he, "until the army is completely reorganised; otherwise, if an enemy should suddenly assail you, there would be none capable of saving the country." The naïveté of this belief in the National Guard as a force capable of "saving the country," in the very teeth of the Prussian invasion and the Commune rebellion, is loudly laughed at. Though Frenchmen love their old delusions, they have a sense of the ludicrous, and M. Brisson's innocence is too much for them. The idea of salvation in a body of men who caused the second siege and the destruction of artistic Paris is truly comic, but of a comedy akin to tears. Brisson maintains that the National Guard will revive in the compulsory personal service. Be it so; but the difference between the men of a trained army accustomed to discipline and to the fear of responsible officers, and the men of a civic guard, like this dispossessed body, is the difference between a military organisation and a rabble—a rabble, too, not exempt from the charge of cowardice.

The reporter of the Commission charged to examine the propositions of Rivet and Aduet has been appointed in the person of M. Vitel. It is thought that M. Thiers inclined rather to M. Beulé as the fittest man to fill the post. It is understood that the powers of M. Thiers will be prolonged for the term of existence of the Assembly, which comes to an end in 1873. He will be entitled President of the Republic, will preside over a council of Ministers, and will communicate with the Chamber by messages, his intermediary being another president. By-the-way, a funny incident occurred on Monday. The Government were distributing among the deputies a statistical report of the prisons and penitentiaries. Somebody opened the volume, athirst for information, and read the signature, "Pinard, Minister of the Interior." The bluebook was dated 1868! It might as well have dated from 1768, and been quite as practically useful.

The trial of the Communists proceeds slowly. The evidence against Ferré tells disastrously; there was quite a sensation in court the other day, when a respectable witness, M. Lasnier, swore to Ferré's personal complicity in several assassinations. Ferré violently denied the statements, but Lasnier solemnly reaffirmed them. Ferré has attempted to read his defence, which is printed, but was stopped by the Court. Fate goes hard against some of the pawns in this fatal game of chess. Take the case of Théophile Devierre, a workman, aged twenty-nine. He served during the first siege in a sedentary company of the 234th battalion. When the Commune arrived he was draughted by force into the 76th battalion, and sent to Fort Issy. He maintained that he never fired a shot, for he had a brother in the loyal camp; but he received his pay. "What could I do?" he exclaimed. "I had a wife and two children, and there was no work to be had." No witnesses appear against Devierre, who is ultimately found guilty and condemned to transportation.

A new letter by the Count of Chambord is published in the *Univers*, but is without particular interest. It is merely a complimentary acknowledgment of a pamphlet by Monseigneur de Séjur, entitled "Vive le Roi." The Count is naturally overjoyed that in these sad days anyone can be found willing to throw up his hat for a Legitimist King. But yet more astonishing than this phenomenon in the eyes of some of the journals is the circumstance that the town of Ajaccio, in Corsica, dared actually to celebrate the Emperor's Fête, the once famous Aug. 15. The municipal council of Ajaccio ordered a special mass in the cathedral, and 1000f. for the poor. And, according to the *Avenir Libéral*, agents of the Emperor Napoleon succeeded in effecting numerous distributions among the hospitals and charities of Paris itself.

The Prussians are by no means easy guests to get rid of. A detachment of 2000 hussars have arrived at Meaux; Charenton and Bondy have also been revisited, and other parts of the country have seen with dismay new helmets arrive. Our feelings here are by no means enviable when we are assured by the *Kölnische Zeitung* that the Germans have no

intention of quitting the forts of Paris until the debt is fully paid. This menace is provocative of counter-threats of that other debt to be paid in five years' time. We have all settled that Alsace and Lorraine are to be reconquered within that term, and Russia is to help us to do it. Russia, it seems, finds herself now in the same position in respect to Prussia as France occupied after Sadowa. This is the latest comfort which fond Paris hugs to her bosom.

The tax on tourists is arousing bitter remonstrance among the shopkeeping class. The theatres are in full swing, but there is nothing new, except a morbid play at the Gymnase, of the school of ethical analytics favoured by the Empire. It is called "Marcelline," and is about a girl who is mistress to her guardian, and who acquires a pure attachment for a young fellow of her own age. You may guess the rest. It is not only repulsive, but dull.

Troubles seem brewing in Lyons, where violent Radical meetings have been held. The Mayor, Hénon, is a pronounced enemy of the Assembly, and has issued anarchical proclamations.

ITALY.

The Municipality of Rome has voted a sum of 100,000f. towards the erection of a monument in commemoration of the unification of Italy, and has called upon the other towns of the kingdom to follow its example. A first list of subscriptions has realised 1080f.

The opening of the Mont Cenis Railway is fixed for Sept. 17. The Ministers of France and the leading engineers of that and other countries have been invited to be present at the ceremony.

SPAIN.

Prince Humbert is at Madrid, on a visit to his brother.

The announcement is made that "further reductions are to be made in the Budget of Public Worship," and it "will therefore be unnecessary to take any measure in reference to the public debt."

The Republican Deputy Roque Barcia has been released, but without trial, as innocent of Prim's assassination, after five months' imprisonment and forty days' solitary confinement.

A decree has been issued appointing Señor Olozaga Ambassador at Paris.

GERMANY.

The King of the Greeks arrived at Berlin on Monday morning, from St. Petersburg, and proceeded to Rumpenheim, near Frankfort.

The Bavarian Ministry has been reconstituted, under Herr Heguenberg Dux, Minister of State and Controller of the Royal Household, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and President of the Ministry. Herr Peretzchner is Minister of Finance; Herr Frankh, Minister of War; Herr von Lutz, of Public Worship; Herr Pfenfer, of the Interior; and Herr Feustle, of Justice.

It is formally announced that the Old Catholics of Bavaria have invited their co-religionists in Austria and Switzerland to a conference at Munich, to be held on Sept. 22, 23, and 24. The subject of discussion at the conference will be the desirability of a thorough reform of the Church and a downright repudiation of Papal personal infallibility.

Cholera has appeared in several districts of Germany. Active sanitary measures are being taken to prevent its spread.

AMERICA.

For the consideration of the "Counter Claims" Commission, which is to meet in Washington, the first claim has been lodged in that city with Mr. Henry Howard, the English agent. It is filed by James Crutchett, a resident of Washington, who states that he is a British subject, and that the United States Government, at the opening of the war, seized his "Mount Vernon cane manufactory," in Washington, for military purposes, by which his property was destroyed, his business broken up, and heavy damage done him.

The five consulates from German States in New York city have been consolidated into one, under the title of the Consulate-General of the German Empire.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The bill for the introduction of responsible government had passed the House of Assembly; but, an amendment to read it that day six months having been negatived by a majority of one only, it was not certain that it would be ratified.

The diamond-fields continue very productive, and there have been several important new "finds."

The Commission for deciding on the claim set up by the Transvaal Republic to a portion of the diamond-fields has completed its labours. It is stated that the Transvaal Republic has wholly failed in substantiating its claim; but, as the Commissioners are not agreed, the evidence has been referred to Lieut.-Governor Keate, of Natal, for his decision.

A storm burst over Bolana, Naples, a few days ago, in which four persons were killed and twenty-eight injured by the lightning. They had sought refuge in a church.

The ship Prince of Wales (late Viscount Canning), from Hong-Kong for Bankok, founded in a gale on June 27. Fifty-one lives were lost.

Enani Bey, a wealthy Egyptian merchant, agent to the Khédive's sugar estates, has offered to build and endow a school in Constantinople for two hundred Mussulman children.

Professor Watson, of the University of Michigan, announces the discovery, in the constellation Capricorn, of a new planet, which is a star of the tenth magnitude.

A Calcutta telegram of Wednesday states that trustworthy accounts up to the 13th inst. make no mention of the rumour circulated in the Indian papers that Shere Ali had been murdered, and that Rosmond Khan was advancing on Cabul.

Renewed prospects of famine are reported by the British Minister at Teheran, who telegraphs to London that any help at once will be of great value, as provisions are expected to go on rising.

The next mails for Australia will be dispatched from London as follows:—Via Southampton, on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 2; via Brindisi, on the evening of Friday, Sept. 8. For New Zealand, via San Francisco, on the evening of Thursday, Aug. 24.

A return prepared in the United States Census Office shows 184,607 male citizens of New York city over twenty-one years of age. Only 71,342 of them are American born: 55,447 were born in Ireland and 41,752 in Germany—these two numbers being, together, more than half the total.

The distribution of medals to the successful exhibitors in the Channel Islands Exhibition (which had been postponed in consequence of a delay in the preparation of the medals) took place on Wednesday. His Excellency Major-General Guy, Lieutenant-General of Jersey, in conjunction with Mr. John Hammond, bailiff for the island, handed the medals to the recipients. A concert by one hundred and sixty performers formed part of the proceedings.

The Egyptian Messenger says that a horrible occurrence took place, last week, in Cairo. The wife of a certain Marcelli, an Italian, having lost her sight from ophthalmia, the husband procured a bottle of sulphuric acid, and, having waylaid the Italian doctor, threw its contents in his face, and in that of his secretary, Mr. Griffith, who accompanied him. Both victims are in great danger of losing the use of their eyes.

The King of Burmah (says the Calcutta correspondent of *The Times*) seems to be going into his mercantile speculation with more than Manchester zeal. He has, it is said, bought up all the piece goods in his market, and is underselling his own subjects, which, after the enlightened commercial speeches of which we have heard so much, may well rank as one of the best jokes of the time. His Majesty is a great believer in the power of talk; he first made an indignant speech against monopoly, and then became a monopolist on this magnificent scale. He says that Europeans will never understand him, and, indeed, he is not far from right.

The clipper-ship Royal Dane, 1615 tons register, 3000 tons burden, one of the London line of packets, forwarded by Messrs. Bethell and Co., brokers, Cowper's-court, Cornhill, sailed from Gravesend, on the 18th inst., bound for Brisbane, Queensland—Lieutenant Bolt, R.N.R., commander; surgeon-superintendent, W. H. Maclean; matron, Mrs. Gaudin. The Royal Dane is the 104th vessel that has sailed on the land-order system of emigration, under the immediate direction of the Queensland Government office, 32, Charing-cross, London. She contains 397 souls, divided into full-paying, remittance, assisted, and free passengers, and consisting of 158 members of families, 107 single men, and 132 single females.

The Emperor of Brazil was present at the sitting of the Geographical Congress in Antwerp, last week, and said at the commencement:—"I am happy to find myself in this congress. I belong to the two geographical societies of London and Paris, and I have the pleasure of meeting in this assembly several members of those societies." The congress has now been sitting for some days, and has stated that one of its special objects is to call upon Governments to pay increased attention to the teaching of geographical science in the national schools. On Wednesday Admiral Ommaney, who attends as a delegate from London, presided at the sitting of the congress, which was occupied with questions relating to cosmography.

A Frenchman was killed, on the sands at Boulogne-sur-Mer, on Monday afternoon, in the presence of many hundred spectators. He was a man of extraordinary strength, named Vigneron, aged forty-five, and was known in most parts of Europe for his feats of strength, and particularly for lifting a cannon weighing 600lb. upon his shoulders and firing a full charge of gunpowder. He went through this performance on the sands, on Monday afternoon, with his usual success, but while in the act of lifting the cannon to lower it he slipped and fell. The whole weight of the cannon fell on his face, splitting his skull completely in two.

A communication from the Foreign Office informs us that the French Government has notified to her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris that English excursionists visiting Boulogne, Calais, Dieppe, or Granville, provided they do not proceed into the country, will not be required to be provided with passports, but that each traveller will be allowed to land on producing a certificate of identity, issued by the local authorities of the place where he resides, certifying that he is visiting France solely as an excursionist. The certificate, which must contain the names, description, and signature of the bearer, and which will not be available as a passport to travel in the interior of France, will be viséed on arrival at the port by the commissary, who will mark on it the number of days for which it is available. The certificate will have to be produced when the holder leaves France, and his signature may be called for. The certificate will remain in the hands of the commissary.

The Yankees are great at nicknames. The people of Alabama are Lizards; of Arkansas, Toothpicks; California, Gold-Hunters; Colorado, Rovers; Connecticut, Wooden Nutmegs; Delaware, Musk-rats; Florida, Fly-up-the-Creeds; Georgia, Buzzards; Illinois, Suckers; Indiana, Hoosiers; Iowa, Hawkeyes; Kansas, Jayhawkers; Kentucky, Corn-Crackers; Louisiana, Creoles; Maine, Foxes; Maryland, Craw-Thumpers; Michigan, Wolverines; Minnesota, Gophers; Mississippi, Tadpoles; Missouri, Pukes; Nebraska, Bug-Eaters; Nevada, Sage-Hens; New Hampshire, Granite Boys; New Jersey, Blues or Clam-Catchers; New York, Knickerbockers; North Carolina, Tar-Boilers and Tuckees; Ohio, Buckeyes; Oregon, Webfeet and Hard Cases; Pennsylvania, Pennanites and Leatherheads; Rhode Island, Gun Flints; South Carolina, Weasels; Tennessee, Whelps; Texas, Beefheads; Vermont, Green Mountain Boys; Virginia, Beadies; Wisconsin, Badgers.

DEATHS FROM LIGHTNING.

In addition to the deaths from lightning already reported, a peculiarly shocking case has occurred at Abney Grange, near Bakewell, in Derbyshire. Mr. Thomas Middleton, a farmer, was seated at table, taking tea with his wife, on Saturday evening, when a flash of lightning struck his residence, and, descending through a bedroom at the front of the house, struck a bedstead, and then passed to the lower room, where Mr. and Mrs. Middleton were seated. The former was instantly killed, while Mrs. Middleton was injured in the leg. Robert Wright, a man in their employ, and who was also in the same room, was injured in his cheek. The effect of the lightning was such as to break the bedstead into small pieces.

Yesterday week the vicinity of Hamsterley, in Durham, was visited by a most violent thunderstorm. After one of the crashes some one looking out from Hamsterley saw the farmhouse of Knavesmire, about a mile distant, occupied by Mr. Wilkinson, break out in flames. Several persons at once went up to the house, when they found Mrs. Wilkinson lying outside the door on the ground in an insensible state, her husband with his head resting on her knee and quite dead, and a child by his side struck blind with the lightning. Various stories are current as to the manner in which the melancholy occurrence took place, but the most trustworthy appears to be that Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson were sitting in the kitchen having tea when a terrific flash of lightning, followed by an awful roar of thunder, took place. Both ran out to the farm building close by to see if the stock were safe, and as they were returning they were met in the doorway by another lightning flash. Mr. Wilkinson was killed instantaneously, while his wife and child were blinded and rendered insensible. Mrs. Wilkinson died the following day, and but little hopes are entertained of the recovery of the child.

During a thunderstorm that passed over the neighbourhood of Huntingdon last week, Mr. Goodwin, butler, at Diddington Park (Mr. Thornhill's seat), was killed by lightning.

On Wednesday morning the City of London Militia, about 600 strong, under the command of Colonel Sir Wm. A. Rose, proceeded to the camp at Aldershot for five weeks' training.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The Lord Mayor received, at the Mansion House, on Tuesday, the Master and Wardens of the Fruiterers' Company, who, in pursuance of time-honoured custom, presented his Lordship with a fine and choice assortment of all the fruit in season.

A flower show, under the auspices of the East London Amateur Floricultural Society, was held in the Bow Cricket-ground, adjoining the Old Ford station, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and drew together a large number of visitors.

A memorandum has been published giving the terms of the reference from the London School Board to the Industrial Schools Committee, showing how children are employed in the streets of London. It contains much interesting information, and suggests means by which such children can be sent to school without materially interfering with their earnings.

The committee of the Common Council appointed to consider the subject have agreed to a report recommending that the Corporation should accept the gift of Columbia Market from Baroness Burdett-Coutts upon the understanding that if, after ten years' trial, it should not be successful, they shall be at liberty to appropriate the site to some congenial purpose.

Mr. Deputy M'Dougall, a member of the Court of Common Council, has recently intimated his wish to be allowed to place a handsome stained-glass window in the Guildhall; and, the offer having been accepted, the work will be executed under the direction of the City Lands Committee. Another window, the gift of Mr. Alderman Cotton, will be inserted about the same time.

One of the most important provisions in the new Metropolis Water Act is that for securing a constant supply. At the expiration of eight months from the passing of the Act every company shall, when required so to do, furnish "a constant supply of pure and wholesome water sufficient for the domestic purposes of the inhabitants." The water is to be laid on at such pressure as will cause it to reach the top story of the highest houses.

At an inquest held yesterday week, Dr. Lankester remarked that within the last three weeks 300 persons had died in London alone from diarrhoea, the majority being children. He believed this great loss of infant life arose from feeding with sour or "turned" milk, which brought on the complaint. He recommended, during the hot weather, the use of Swiss condensed milk, which, being the very essence of milk, would keep for any length of time perfectly sweet.

A child about four years of age fell, last Saturday evening, off the Victoria Embankment into the river Thames, midway between Waterloo and Hungerford Bridges. A police constable (Charles Curtis, E 230) happened to be passing at the time, and, having hastily pulled off his coat, trousers, and boots, he plunged into the water after the child, whom he brought safely to land. The child was as nearly dead as possible, but on being taken to the Charing-cross Hospital revived, and in the course of an hour seemed little the worse.

The German operatives living in London celebrated the union of Germany by a German national fête at the Crystal Palace on Monday. The first part of the fête consisted of a concert, in which Madame Rudersdorf, Madame Liebhart, Mr. Nordblom, and others took part. The second and more characteristic portion of the day's proceedings consisted of a series of four tableaux vivants. The intervals were filled up with amateur choral singing, consisting of appropriate national airs.—On Tuesday the Foresters, an "ancient order" which numbers 400,000 members in this country, and has ramifications in America and Australia, held a fête at the Crystal Palace, and drew together 84,000 people at Sydenham.

A memorandum issued by the School Board for London states that in the middle of July an inspection was made of the numbers and occupations of children under thirteen years old observed in the streets from the Royal Exchange, by Temple-bar, and Regent-street, to Oxford-circus, also from Farringdon-circus, along Holborn, to the Marble Arch. The following is a summary of the result:—Road-sweepers, 14 boys; crossing-sweepers, 0; licensed shoeblocks, 27 boys; other shoeblocks, 6 boys; sellers of matches, 45 boys and 11 girls; sellers of newspapers, 42 boys and 5 girls; sellers of other articles, 3 boys and 4 girls; number of boys, 137; number of girls, 20: total, 157. Besides these children, there were of persons in the same street, over thirteen years old, at the same employments, 186 men and 64 women—total, 250; of whom 8 were crossing-sweepers, and in addition there were 77 persons with advertising boards between Temple-bar and Oxford-circus. Thus in about five miles of the most frequented thoroughfares there were 157 children street-workers.

During the past week the following anonymous contributions to charities have been made:—The Committee of the Alexandra Orphanage for Infants, Hornsey-rise, have been favoured a second time with a donation of £1000 from their anonymous friend, "D. N."; the Governors of St. George's Hospital have received a second donation of £1000 from an anonymous donor under the initials of "F.G.N."; the directors of the British Home for Incurables acknowledge a third donation of £1000 to the funds of the charity from "C. D. T."; the London Fever Hospital has received £1000 (third donation) from "C. R. W."; the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Brompton, £1000 (third donation), from "G. N. D."; the London Infirmary for Diseases of the Legs, £1000 (second donation), from "S. S. C."; St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, a third donation of £1000 from "D. T. H."; the National Hospital for Consumption on the Separate or Cottage Principle £250 from Mrs. F. H.; and the Infirmary for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Charles-street, Portman-square, has received £200 from a "Generous Lady."

Colonel Henderson has appointed the under-mentioned places in the "S" or Hampstead division as fixed points where a police constable is to be permanently stationed from eight a.m. till twelve midnight:—Corner of Albany-street and Euston-road; corner of Euston and Hampstead roads; corner of Park and High streets, Camden town; Eyre Arms, corner of Finchley and Grove-end roads; corner of Blenheim-terrace and Abbey-road; Cobden statue, High-street, Camden-Town; Swiss Cottage, corner of Upper Avenue-road and Finchley-road; corner of Belsize-road and Abbey-road West, St. John's wood; Belsize Park, Buckland-crescent; High-street, Hampstead; Brent-street, Hendon; Ballard's-lane, Finchley, by railway station.—The following are the "fixed stations" set down for the "G" division:—King's-cross, at the junction of Gray's-inn and Pentonville roads; St. John-street-road, opposite the Angel; Gray's-inn-road, Holborn end; Holywell-lane, Shoreditch; Bateman's-row, Norfolk-gardens, Shoreditch; Exmouth-street, near the "Spa" public-house; Hatton-garden, Charles-street end; Eyre-street-hill, Leather-lane; Chiswell-street, Finsbury-square; Whitecross-street, St. Luke's; and Golden-lane, St. Luke's. The notice is given by the commissioner, that with respect to this district as well as to others the persistent ringing of a bell or springing of a rattle will procure the assistance of the police.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.

The special questions for discussion at the Leeds Congress of the Social Science Association, to begin on Oct. 4—under the presidency of Sir John Pakington, Bart., M.P.—have been finally arranged by the general and local committees of the several departments, as under:—

Jurisprudence (W. Vernon Harcourt, Q.C., M.P., president):—1. What steps ought to be taken to establish a better system of legal education? 2. What is the best constitution of local courts, and what should be their jurisdiction? 3. What alterations are expedient in the laws relating to the devolution and transfer of land?

Repression of Crime Section (Lord Teignmouth, chairman):—1. How far ought the cellular system of imprisonment to be adopted; and how far does it necessarily interfere with productive labour? 2. By what principles ought the amount of punishment, other than capital, to be regulated? 3. By what measures may the trading in stolen property, whether by purchasing it or receiving it in pledge, be most effectually prevented?

Education (Mr. Edward Baines, M.P., president):—1. What are the special requirements for the improvement of the education of girls? 2. How may the education of neglected children be provided for? The question to be considered under the divisions (a), Industrial schools and their relation to the school boards; (b), in what form, if any, may compulsion be best applied? 3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of large as compared with small schools?

Health (Mr. George Goodwin, F.R.S., president):—1. What are the best and most economical methods of removing and utilising the sewage of large towns? 2. What are the best means of securing the sanitary improvement of human habitations? 3. What are the best means of promoting the health of operatives in factories and workshops?

Economy and Trade (Mr. William Newmarch, F.R.S., president):—1. What amendments are needed in the existing laws for the licensing of houses for the sale of intoxicating liquors? 2. What principles ought to regulate the assessment and administration of local taxation? 3. Is it desirable that the State or municipality should assist in providing improved dwellings for the lower classes? and, if so, to what extent, and in what way?

These questions will be taken one on each day, and two days will be set apart for the reading and discussion of voluntary papers on other subjects within the range of the departments not specified above.

FATAL BOATING AND BATHING ACCIDENTS.

Boating and bathing accidents have been terribly numerous of late. Yesterday week Messrs. Hay and Welch, of Devonport, with a young man employed at the dockyard, went out to fish in a yacht of about ten tons burden, which was seen to turn over off Salcombe. The yacht, bottom upwards, was secured, but the bodies of its crew have not yet been picked up.

At Shaldon, near Teignmouth, Mr. David Smith, aged thirty-six, of Brixton, London, was drowned while bathing on Friday, in the presence of his wife.

A London publican, Mr. Edward Hopkins, aged fifty-four, was seized with a spasm of the heart while bathing at Ramsgate, and lost his life.

On Tuesday a boat containing six young men was capsized in the Solent, and one of them, Alfred Hopgood by name, who was a good swimmer, was drowned in his successful endeavours to save the life of one who was unable to swim.

A party of five excursionists from Birkenhead to Chester went on the Dee in a boat, which upset. Thomas and Rachel Jones, one child, and Abraham Oakes were drowned. No one saw the accident, and the man who was saved has not been able to tell how it occurred. An inquest on the bodies was held on Tuesday. The boat in which the party went upon the river was, in the opinion of the jury, too small, and a verdict of manslaughter was returned against the owner.

Henry Nye, a youth of eighteen, with a much younger lad, was bathing and swimming from a boat opposite to the Sun Pier, Chatham, when he was seized with a chill or cramp. The boy who was with him swam to his aid, and got hold of him, but was obliged to shake himself clear of Nye, or both would have perished. Nye was swept away by the tide.

Alfred, son of Dr. Dickenson, of Haverstock-hill, aged fifteen, was drowned in the Hampstead ponds last week.

Mr. Henry Golden, of Lordship-lane, Stoke Newington, went to the beach at Clacton, last Saturday, to bathe, and being unable to swim, having gone too far out, was drowned.

Baroness Burdett-Coutts has given £50 to the fund for preserving Epping Forest.

Mr. James Watney, a Conservative, was on Thursday elected member for East Surrey, in the room of the late Mr. C. Buxton.

Tuesday was the day of the summer fête given each year to the children of the Fatherless Asylum at Reedham by a stanch friend of the institution, in his grounds at Croydon.

Mr. John Lewis O'Ferrall, the Dublin Commissioner of Police, has placed his resignation in the hands of the Government. Mr. O'Ferrall has been thirty-six years connected with the force.

The Dublin carpenters, who have been out on strike for eight weeks in order to obtain an advance of 3s. per week, have accepted a compromise of 2s., and have resumed work.

The combined Mediterranean and Channel squadrons (with the exception of the two junior flagships, the Minotaur and Agincourt, temporarily detached), under the command of Vice-Admiral Yelverton, are at Queenstown, under orders to prepare for a lengthened cruise.

Tuesday's *Gazette* announces that the Queen has granted the dignity of a Baronet of the United Kingdom to Richard Wallace, of Hertford House, Manchester-square, in the parish of St. Marylebone. The *Gazette* also announces the appointment of Mr. Adam Rankine, B.A., of Balliol College, Oxford, to be one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools.

The strike of the Rhondda Valley and Mountain Ash colliers has terminated. The terms of arbitration offered to the men have been accepted and signed by all except about one hundred. The Cornwall and Staffordshire men who had taken the place of those on strike have entirely left the valley to return home.

The Right Hon. James Stansfeld is gazetted president of the new Local Government Board, and, by the new Act, the board is deemed to be established as soon as the president is appointed. The powers to be exercised by the new board relate to the registration of births, deaths, and marriages; public health, local government, drainage, &c.; baths and wash-houses, public improvements, &c.; as also to the prevention of disease and vaccination, the last two having been under the Privy Council and the former under the Secretary of State.

MORLAIX.

We give this week a few Engravings taken from the old Breton town of Morlaix. At this season of the year, when weary brains and over-wrought nerves are seeking their annual rest and recreation, it is almost vain surfeiture to point out by pictorial representation that Brittany has its claim upon the lover of the picturesque, whether in scenery, buildings, or costume. Its coast, jutting out into the Atlantic, as if in rivalry of Cornwall, is freshened by the breezes that sweep over the ocean; and in its towns and villages the quaint attire and stranger tongue of its peasantry seem to transport one into a land that is wholly new and unlike anything to be seen elsewhere in the tourist grounds of Europe.

The little sea-port of Morlaix, in the department of Finisterre, will well repay a visit, and will give a very excellent idea of Breton architecture, as well as of the habits and appearance of the simple peasantry. Not that it is so wholly antique and fantastic throughout as the street from which our larger Engraving is taken; for, alas for the picturesque! much that gave a character to the place and that art-heretics might profanely call old, dingy, and crazy, has given way to modern improvements. But Nature cannot be improved away or levelled to the tame and prosaic when once it has established a position for itself in the world. And Morlaix possesses the lasting charm of position, which, happily, cannot be modernised or reduced to the utilitarian pattern. Situated in a valley, its two sides support themselves



STREET IN MORLAIX, BRITTANY.

upon the rocky hills that form their background, or slope upwards, with terraced gardens, to the heights that look down upon the town. The houses, as the Engravings show, are built with projecting stories, surmounted by the gables peculiar to this style of domestic architecture, which is common throughout Brittany. So far do the topmost stories project in the narrow streets that they almost approach one another and darken the footways below, where the townsfolk, not yet acquainted with the modes de Paris, add to the fantastic appearance of the houses by the characteristic quaintness of the Breton costume.

Morlaix boasts of a large tobacco manufactory, whose products, however, are not held in very high estimation by connoisseurs in that article. Be this as it may, it has also a manufacture of linen, and a considerable trade in various articles of consumption, especially in butter and honey. But its productions will not be the attraction which will draw to this and other towns of Brittany and Normandy the annual influx of English tourists, who gravitate to these two provinces of France as their forefathers in days gone by, when their visits were not so peaceful and their sojourn not so welcome.

"A BRETON GIRL: EVENING."

This Engraving is from a water-colour drawing (not hitherto exhibited) by Mr. F. J. Skill, who has recently been elected an Associate of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours. Mr. Skill is one of the numerous engravers and draughtsmen on wood



ANCIENT CHIMNEY, TIME OF FRANCIS I., MORLAIX.



"A BRETON GIRL—EVENING," BY F. J. SKILL.

taken from the carriage, and a number of men drew it with some difficulty through the dense crowd down the pier, the band playing "The Campbells are comin'." The Princess and the Marquis embarked on board the Duke of Argyll's yacht Columbia; but the departure of the yacht was slightly delayed in consequence of his Lordship's valet, who had charge of the luggage, being robbed of his watch, and in the eagerness to chase the thief some of the luggage got misplaced. As the yacht weighed anchor a Royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired. The Columbia reached Castle Point at nine o'clock in the evening, where the Princess and her husband landed, passing beneath a floral arch to a dais, where an address was presented, to which the Marquis replied. The Princess was presented with bouquets, after which they drove to Roseneath Castle. Later in the evening there was a display of fireworks, and bonfires were lighted upon the hills. On Sunday the Princess and the Marquis attended Divine service in the parish church. The Rev. Mr. Storey officiated. On Monday her Royal Highness and his Lordship left Roseneath Castle, proceeding in the Columbia to Inverary Castle, where a large and distinguished circle were assembled to receive the Royal bride on her homecoming.

Princess Louise will distribute prizes and silver medals, on Sept. 2, to the boys on board the Cumberland training-ship. The medals will bear the portraits of the Princess and the Marquis of Lorne.

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, upon the occasion of the recent Royal visit to Dublin, presented to Princess Louise a magnificent golden chalice, it being a facsimile of an ancient chalice of Irish workmanship, valued at 1000 gs., now being exhibited in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

PRINCE ARTHUR.

Prince Arthur presented new colours to the 103rd (Royal Bombay) Fusiliers, on Saturday last, at Parkhurst, Isle of Wight. The Crown Prince and Princess of the German Empire were present at the ceremony. After trooping the old colours, during which the band played "Auld Lang Syne," a hymn was sung, and the new colours were consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester. Prince Arthur, who was attired in the uniform of the Rifle Brigade, then received the colours from the hands of the Imperial Crown Princess, and presented them to two ensigns, who received them kneeling, after which Prince Arthur made a graceful speech, which was responded to on behalf of the regiment by Colonel Furneaux. Prince Arthur and the Imperial Crown Prince and Princess were entertained by the officers at luncheon, after which the ceremony of depositing the old colours in Newport church was performed.

His Excellency the Danish Minister has left London for Denmark. The Secretary of Legation will act as Chargé-d'Affaires during his Excellency's absence.

The Duchess Dowager of St. Albans and Lady Diana Beauclerk have left their residence for the Channel Islands.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Ailesbury have left their residence in Pall-mall for Jervaux Abbey, Yorkshire.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Hertford and the Ladies Seymour have left their residence in Connaught-place for Ragley, Warwickshire.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Huntly have arrived at Aboye Castle.

Dowager Marchioness Townshend and Lady Audrey Townshend have left town for Raynham Park.

Marquis Townshend has left town for the Earl of Fife's seat in Banffshire.

The Marquis of Bute has gone on a tour in Germany.

The Marquis of Ripon has left town for the Isle of Harris.

The Earl and Countess of Galloway and the Ladies Stewart and Captain Hon. Randolph Stewart have left town for Galloway House, Wigtonshire.

The Earl and Countess of Effingham and the Ladies Howard have left their residence in Eaton-place for Tusmore House, Bicester, Oxon.

The Earl and Countess of Abergavenny have arrived at Eridge Castle, Kent.

The Earl and Countess of Longford have left their residence in Bruton-street for Longford Castle.

The Earl of Clanwilliam and the Hon. Misses Vesey have left town for Germany.

The Earl and Countess of Enniskillen have arrived in Dublin, en route for Florence Court, Fermanagh.

The Earl of St. Germans has left town for Port Eliot, Cornwall.

Viscount and Viscountess Sydney have left town for Homburg.

Viscount and Viscountess Lismore have left Burlington-street for Shanbally Castle, Ireland.

Baroness Burdett-Coutts has left Holly Lodge for Harrogate.

The Dowager Lady Stanley of Alderley and the Hon. Miss Stanley have left town for Germany.

Lord and Lady Chelmsford and the Hon. Miss Thesiger have left their residence in Eaton-square for Highcliff, Hants.

The Lord Chancellor and Lady Hatherley have left their residence, Great George-street, for Perley Hall, near Reading.

The Right Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, Bart., M.P., and Lady Northcote have left town for The Pynes, Exeter.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., has left town for Scotland.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs. Lowe have left their residence in Lowndes-square for Caterham, Surrey.

The Right Hon. H. A. Bruce has left town for Clifton.

The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen has left town for his seat in Surrey.

Dr. Arthur Farre, F.R.S., of Hertford-street, Mayfair, has been appointed by the Council of the Royal College of Physicians Harveian Orator for the ensuing year.

The Act to protect the goods of lodgers against distress for rent due to the superior landlord has been issued. A lodger, if a distress is levied, is to make a declaration that the immediate tenant has no property in the goods distrained. Annexed to the declaration is to be a correct inventory; and if the lodger shall subscribe the declaration or inventory knowing either of them to be untrue in any material particular, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour. If after such declaration and inventory, and after the lodger has paid or tendered the rent (if any) due, the superior landlord shall levy a distress, he shall be deemed guilty of an illegal distress, and the lodger may apply to a police court for an order for the restoration of such goods, besides which the superior landlord is to be liable to an action at the suit of the lodger, in which action the truth of the declaration and inventory may likewise be inquired into.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Farthropp, Shafro N., to be Curate of Dursley.
Dundas, R.; Rector of Albury, Surrey.
Edwards, T. L., Curate of Sibsey; Rector of Fishoft.
Farrow, Henry; Vicar of Fulford.
Gay, Alfred Henry; Rector of Plaitford, Wilts.
Lipscomb, C. H.; Rector of Howe with West Poringland, Norfolk.
Oxlee, Richard A. W.; Vicar of Scampston.
Roberts, A.; Rector of Woodmansterne, Epsom.
Torry, Alfred Freer; Vicar of St. Silas's, Sculcoates.

The Rev. Charles Bradley, for many years the minister of St. James's, Clapham, died last week, at the age of eighty-two.

The new Church of St. Mary Hook, built at the expense of Mr. Arthur Hornby, of the Hook, was consecrated, on the 16th inst., by the Bishop of Winchester.

The Rev. T. L. Wheeler, jun., has been appointed by the Bishop of Hereford diocesan inspector of schools for Salop, and has consequently tendered his resignation as Vicar of Holy Trinity, Worcester.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has accepted the office of President of the Church Defence Institution; and the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of London, Bangor, and Llandaff, and Archdeacon Bickersteth have been elected Vice-Presidents.

The foundation-stone of schools for St. Matthew's, Yiewsley, in the parish of Hillingdon, was laid on the 17th inst., by Bishop Claughton, Archdeacon of London. The schools—for 300 boys, girls, and infants—are to be built on glebe close to the church, from designs by Mr. W. White, F.S.A.

On the 18th inst. the new Church of St. Stephen, Selly-hill, was consecrated by the Bishop of Worcester. It is built on the hill between the Bromsgrove and Pershore roads, about two miles and a half from Birmingham, and its graceful spire can be seen at a great distance.

The choir of Gloucester Cathedral was reopened on Sunday, after having been closed three years, and after having in the interim been beautified at a cost which, in the end, will be at least £13,000 of the £45,000, which is Mr. Scott's original estimate for the complete restoration of the cathedral. The preacher of the morning was the Bishop of the diocese.

The fine old parish church of Haltwhistle, after undergoing a very extensive restoration, was reopened for Divine worship, on the 17th inst., by the Bishop of Manchester, who preached both in the morning and evening to large congregations. In the course of his morning's discourse his Lordship took occasion to condemn the practice of lay patrons selling livings.

The Bishop of St. David's has reopened the church of Abergavenny. The structure was of very ancient origin, but has been long disused, and stands in a rude part of the country on the borders of the counties of Brecon and Cardigan, where Dissent is very prevalent. The church, built from designs by Mr. Withers, is in memory of the late Mr. Henry Thomas, of Llwynmadog, is Early English of the thirteenth century, and consists of nave, chancel, and transepts, with tower at intersections, and porch at west of south side of nave.

The Archbishop of York consecrated a new church at Bridlington Quay, on the 15th inst., and preached, after which an offertory of £66 was made. The church is from the designs of Mr. R. G. Smith, architect; and owes its origin mainly to the zeal and liberality of the Rev. Y. L. Greame, of Sowerby, and members of his family. The cost of the building is about £7000, exclusive of the site given by the proprietors of the Beaconsfield estate; but a considerable portion of the money has yet to be raised.

In laying the foundation-stone of the new "free and open" Church of St. Peter, near Bury, on Wednesday, the Bishop of Manchester referred to pew rents, which, he said, could only be justified on the plea that there was no other mode of maintaining a church and paying the clergyman. He stated incidentally that during the seventeen months of his episcopate he had opened or consecrated fifteen new churches within his diocese.

The Rev. R. W. Church, Rector of Whatley, Somersetshire, has been appointed to the vacant Deanery of St. Paul's Cathedral. Mr. Church, after a distinguished career at the University of Oxford, took his degree in first-class honours in 1836, and shortly afterwards became Fellow of Oriel, at that time one of the most coveted distinctions in the University. In 1854 Mr. Church published a volume of essays, which stamped him at once as one of the most cultivated scholars and one of the most graceful writers of the day. Two of the essays in the volume are a review of Anselm's life, and have since been expanded into a "Life of St. Anselm," and published as a separate volume. Three years ago Mr. Church published a volume of University sermons on the relations between Christianity and civilisation, which have attracted a good deal of attention. He has taken no prominent part in the controversies, political or religious, of the day, but he has done much in a quiet way towards reconciling the old Conservatism of his diocese.

The Swiss Times records the consecration, on Sunday week, by Bishop Parry, of the English chapel dedicated to St. Peter, at Zermatt, erected partly as a memorial of the first English travellers who mounted the Matterhorn, of whom three (Lord F. Douglas, the Rev. C. Hudson, and Mr. Hadow) perished. Madame Seiler, of the Monte Rosa Hotel, has taken much interest in the work, and there was a display of fireworks at the hotel the night before the consecration.—Bishop Parry laid the foundation-stone, on the 17th inst., of a new English church at Samaden, the chief town of the Engadine. The funds for this church have been procured chiefly in England through the laborious exertions of the Rev. Stenton Eardley, of Streatham, who has for several seasons acted as Chaplain to the English and American tourists in the above-named most charming Swiss valley. There was a large attendance of English and American visitors. On Saturday (to-day) the Bishop has engaged to consecrate a new English church near the mineral springs at St. Moritz. This church has been erected through the exertions of the Rev. A. B. Stretell, for many years Chaplain at St. Moritz.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The division-lists of the Oxford local examinations have been issued. Of the senior candidates, out of the whole number (499) 287 satisfied the examiners and obtained the title of Associate in Arts. Twenty-one are placed in the first division and 32 in the second. The number who passed this year in English was 271; languages, 208; mathematics, 225; physics, 55; drawing, 67; music, 23. The proportion of successful work is largest in physics, next to which comes English, while drawing shows the lowest proportion. In the junior list, out of 1191 candidates, 661 passed.

The class list for the recent Cambridge Examination for Women has been issued, for private circulation only. After this year it will be in the power of the syndicate to publish the list and the names of candidates. One hundred and twenty-

seven candidates entered, as against 84 in 1870 and 36 in 1869, when the examination was instituted. The number of candidates actually examined was 107, and of these 37 failed to satisfy the examiners. Last year the failures were 21 out of 72. The proportion of success in the compulsory subjects is less this year than last, but in all other subjects it is greater. The "languages" group attracted many candidates, and several were very successful. One lady obtains especial marks of distinction in Latin, French, and German. In mathematics and in moral sciences candidates have for the first time earned a place in the honour classes. Five gratuities of £5 each have been awarded to persons engaged in tuition or preparing for that profession; and exhibitions of £34, £20, and £19 have also been awarded. The same gratuities and more exhibitions are promised for next year, when the examination is to be held in the third week of June.—The local examination for boys and girls begins on Dec. 3, and the forms of entry are now in the hands of the local secretaries. The latest day for returning them is Oct. 10. In addition to the centres of examination for last year (thirty-five in number, at twenty-three of which girls were examined as well as boys), examinations will probably be held at Bramham, Croydon, Eastbourne, Gainford, Ipswich, Lancaster, Middlesborough, and Newport. Centres are in course of formation in Natal and the Bahamas. In December, 1870, 2600 candidates presented themselves for examination, and during the year schools containing about 2000 students have been examined by the Syndicate.

The Hope chemistry prize in Edinburgh University, formerly denominated the Hope Scholarship, has this year been won by Mr. Alexander Watt, of Galashiels.

The professorship of English and modern languages in St. David's College, Lampeter, has been conferred upon the Rev. J. J. Lias, M.A., Minor Canon of Llandaff Cathedral.

THE FATAL EXPLOSION AT STOWMARKET.

Particulars were given last week of the terrible explosion, on the 11th inst., of a gun-cotton factory at Stowmarket, by which twenty-four persons were killed and seventy-two others injured. A local journal says:—"The scene of the accident is one of perfect ruin. The only thing that appears intact is the tall, handsome white brick chimney shaft. At the base of this lies a confused mass, extending over a wide area, of broken walls, rafters, tiles, slates, masses of half-burned cotton, iron rods and beams, twisted into the most fantastic shapes, corrugated iron fencing, and all the remnants of what had been an hour before an extensive pile of buildings. The site of the magazines is, however, the most telling of all the strange and horrible spectacles on the spot. There the only thing to be seen is a huge chasm, nearly circular in form, and more than 100 feet in diameter. The soil is boggy, and has been turned out in huge, boulder-like lumps, leaving the bottom nearly twenty feet below the natural surface of the surrounding soil. Scarcely a brick or tile, or vestige of any building is to be seen near this centre, and the trees which stood around, some of them of large growth, were torn out by the roots or broken short off, and the fragments scattered around, affording testimony of the awful force which dug out in an instant the huge pond-like hole where the magazine had stood. It may be mentioned that the telegraph wires on the railway have been torn off, the rails themselves being started in many places from the sleepers and scattered about with portions of the trees and fragments of the buildings. A farmhouse in the occupation of Mr. Woods, on the Ipswich road, about 400 yards from the factory, is all but ruined. The windows are blown in, the tiles cleared entirely from portions of the roof, and in the centre the framework of the roof looks as if crushed in by some mighty blow. The cottages in that neighbourhood are similarly damaged. Window-frames may be seen forced out and hanging only by a nail or shred; tiles are scattered in all directions. In the town a like scene presents itself. In the district called California the houses, principally cottages, are wrecked as to the glass and the roofs. The streets in other parts of the town are strewn with glass, and at five o'clock all the shops have closed shutters, simply as a matter of precaution to save the goods, for the glass is gone from nearly every frame. The church windows are all broken, the leads and glass having been forced inwards upon the iron framing, and in some cases blown entirely away. The cast window of the north aisle has suffered even more severely, for the mullions have given way to the pressure, and hang tottering to their fall.

An inquest has been held. Yesterday week evidence of an important and painfully interesting character was given by Mr. Trotman, manager of the works. He was in his office when the explosion occurred. He heard a heavy thud, and at that moment found himself standing amid the ruins of the building. He at once ran to the shattered sheds by the river side, and calling out to know if anyone was there, he was answered by moans. He dragged away the bricks, and discovered two men, whose lives he was instrumental in saving. He then met the two Messrs. Prentice, and had scarcely left their side when the second explosion occurred, which blew one of them to atoms. On the Friday preceding the explosion there were twenty-one tons of gun-cotton on the premises, but ten tons were sent away. The place was so full that a packing-shed was made temporarily into a magazine. The cotton made for Government was of the greatest dynamic strength. An explosion occurred some years ago through too much hot air being admitted into the drying-house. No heat-meter is kept in the magazine. He believed that heat had something to do with the present explosion, such accidents having always occurred in this unlucky month. With his present experience, he considered the factory too near the railway station and the town. The earth mounds between the buildings had been removed and brick walls substituted. The rules of the license had, he contended, been generally adhered to. The inquiry was resumed last Saturday, when the examination of Mr. Trotman was proceeded with. Witness was questioned at some length respecting a suspicion that some of the cotton had been tampered with in the process of manufacture, but upon this point the evidence was not clear. Mr. Trotman stated that he could not account for the occurrence at all. Colonel Younghusband, superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder Works at Waltham Abbey, described the results of some experiments showing the explosive qualities of gun-cotton by ignition, which were carried out several months ago by direction of the Government. These established the following points:—1. The non-liability of compressed gun-cotton to explosion by accidental ignition when stored in magazines in the proper boxes; 2, the ignition of a package of compressed gun-cotton, forming part of a store, was not necessarily attended by the immediate ignition of the neighbouring boxes, as would be the case with gunpowder; 3, gun-cotton was perfectly non-inflammable when stored in the damp condition. Colonel Younghusband added that further experiments ought to be made with gun-cotton in a dry state, and that its storage should be conducted with great care. The further hearing was adjourned.



SCENE OF THE GUN-COTTON EXPLOSION AT STOWMARKET.

Leaves from a Sketch-Book.

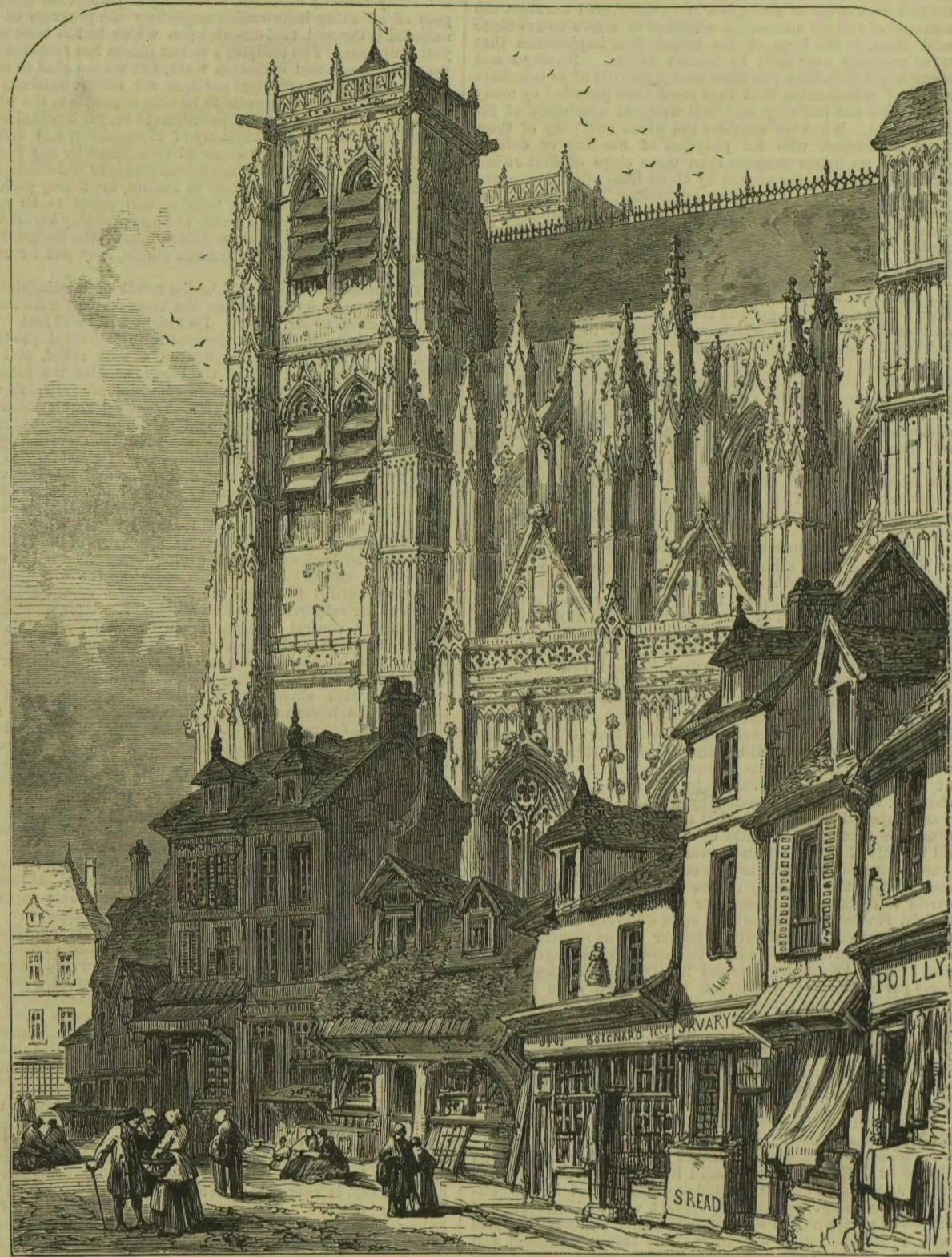
ABBEVILLE.

If Amiens has few attractions beyond its celebrated cathedral and the historic associations connected with its Hôtel de Ville, where the short-lived treaty of peace was signed in 1802, Abbeville, its sister city in Picardy, has still less to boast of; and it is improbable that many travellers would feel disposed to break the journey from Boulogne to Paris for even the few hours that might be spent in seeing all the treasures and antiquities it may contain. Situated in the fertile valley of the Somme, which here widens out into a broad river, and on the direct route to the capital, it cannot be called an out-of-the-way town, and it is a place of some commercial and manufacturing importance. It is, at least, just one of those places which are dear to the soul of the artist, abounding, as it does, in narrow streets, picturesque old houses, and dark archways, under which the Somme courses slowly and languidly, like the dull blood along the arteries of the aged and feeble. Such a place affords many a quaint morceau for the sketch-book, in its tumble-down houses and decaying gables, the fast-fading memorials of the wooden period of domestic architecture, when men seem to have reserved the treasures of their carved work in stone and marble for the temples of their faith, well content themselves to dwell in habitations which, however picturesque, would be the despair of the sanitary reformers and imperious adiles of the present day. Then the cathedral—erected, possibly, in honour of some apocryphal saint, or as a receptacle for some still more doubtful relics—was everything, and the house nothing. Thus, whilst the most magnificent ecclesiastical buildings have been erected throughout Europe, and still tower above every town and city, at home and abroad, in almost imperishable grandeur and symmetry, there are not many secular edifices which have escaped the ravages of Time, with the exception of a few palaces and castles and the well-known guildhalls and hôtels de ville of the Middle Ages.

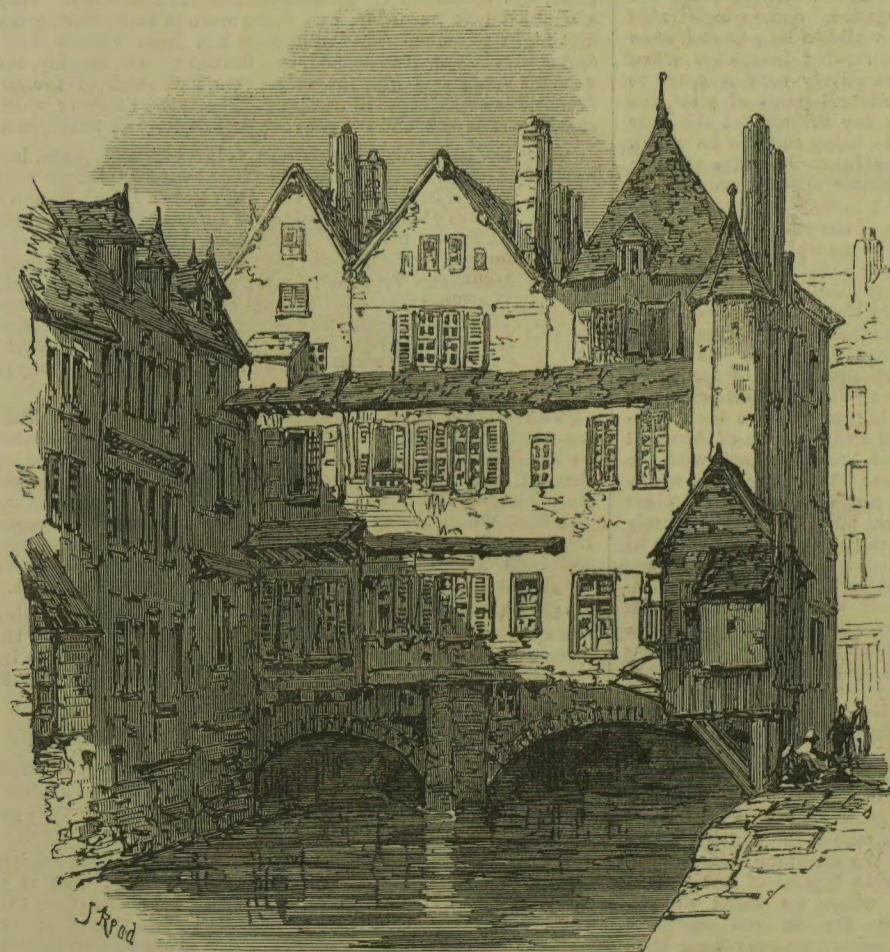
Abbeville, as its name implies, was originally only a manor attached to the abbey of St. Riquier, a local saint, who gave his name to a small town on one of the tributaries of the Somme. The celebrated Hugh Capet, son of Hugh the Great, the founder of a family which still survives and of a dynasty of which the world may hear something more before long, once resided here, and gave the importance of a fortified town to it about the close of the tenth century. It gradually increased in importance till it became only second to Amiens amongst the cities of Picardy. Louis XII., the three-months' husband of our Mary Tudor, under the advice of Cardinal d'Amboise caused the magnificent west front and part of the nave of the Cathedral of St. Wolfran to be built; and, though the original design was not completed, enough was accomplished to enable us to form an idea of the splendid church which it was originally intended to erect. The façade is a truly noble specimen of the flamboyant Gothic. It is covered with a profusion of the richest work, such as the facile chisel and delicate taste of the French masons seem to have delighted in achieving. This grand western front is flanked by two towers of great beauty, whilst the exterior of the clerestory of the nave, connected by flying buttresses and pinnacles with the walls of the side chapels of the aisle, all enriched with elaborate tracery, presents a view of singular elegance and grace. An Illustration of the south-western angle of the cathedral is given, with the quaint and irregular, yet most picturesque, houses that nestle beneath the shade of St. Wolfran.

The other Engravings represent several old and characteristic houses which span various parts of the canal or river, and bear no inconsiderable resemblance to some similarly situated houses at Lincoln. Dark and weirdlike are they, and one cannot help speculating as to what their original inhabitants were, and whether this amphibious predilection encourages the "evolution" theory, that man has been derived from a fish, or whether this choice of a superaqueous habitation is a cropping out of the instinct that animated the lake-dwellers of a long-forgotten past, and still survives in the river-villages of China.

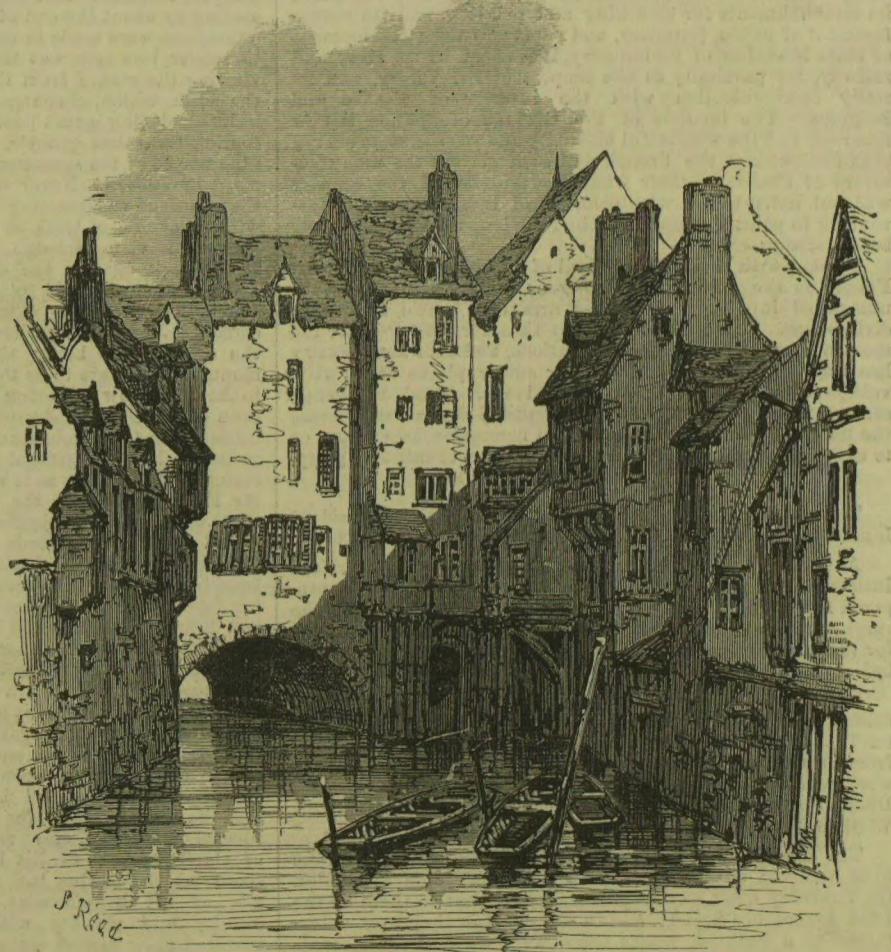
Here, in this valley of the Somme, we are on the haunts,



ST. WOLFRAN.



ON THE CANAL.



ON THE CANAL.

and possibly the hunting-grounds, of those rude forefathers of Europe to whom the Basques and Finns are a comparatively modern race. It is in the neighbourhood of Abbeville that the curious researches of geologists have discovered amongst the remains of extinct mammals evidence of man's co-existence with them, in the form of the rudest flint implements that were probably ever used by human hands. Hatchets and spear-heads have been exhumed near Abbeville of so primitive a type of construction that they must have preceded by many years even the ordinary and well-wrought specimens of the flint period. When we consider the great antiquity of those races in Europe, who for purposes of hunting or defence employed no better weapons than mere chips of flint rudely struck off from larger masses by blows from other stones, and that, according to competent authorities, there have been periods of regular gradation and of long duration, when stone, bronze, and, lastly, iron, were used successively as the materials of human implements, we may form some idea of the hoary age of the spot we are now considering as the haunt of men. In the immediate vicinity of Abbeville, besides the primitive weapons which have been discovered, there have been found the remains of the mammoth, elephant, rhinoceros, and other quadrupeds which were extinct in Europe, long before the remotest times to which any history can go back. Here, then, before the dawn of civilisation, in the valley of the Somme, roamed the primitive hunter in quest of his huge prey; and here, side by side with the bones of the animals that fell by his superior bravery and cunning, he has left the silent records of his presence, though as yet no traces of himself have been found. Abbeville, however, from the light which it has thrown upon the habits of pre-historic man and the interesting nature of the geological deposits in its neighbourhood, has given no insignificant help to the scientific researches of the day, and has thrown no small light upon the period—

Cum praecepserunt primis animalia terris,

as Horace has it, in allusion to the first appearance of man upon the earth. And no less appropriate to this region is his description of the subsequent habits of man, when civilisation had introduced the art of war and the science of destructiveness—"Pugnabant armis, quæ post fabricaverat usus." For within the limits of an easy excursion from Abbeville is the celebrated field of Crécy, where Edward III. gained his "famous victory," fruitful, as most famous victories are, in the bloodshed and death of tens of thousands, but as barren in the result proposed as that other which excited the wonderment of little Peterkin. At Abbeville there was long a large storehouse of salt, which, until the Revolution of 1789 swept away the Gabelle or salt tax, was a constant reminder of the disaster of Crécy. Philippe de Valois, in order to replenish his exchequer, which was exhausted by his war with Edward III., was compelled to impose several taxes, but none more iniquitous than that of the Gabelle, or salt tax. It was enacted that all the salt of the kingdom should be stored in certain Royal warehouses, of which Abbeville contained one, that the King should enjoy the monopoly of the trade; and, lest any should evade the tax by abstinence or economy in the use of the article, it was made compulsory upon everyone to buy at least seven pounds of it annually, whether it was required or not, and that no portion of it was to be devoted to salting or curing provisions. As the price varied in different districts, and in some parts the cost was great, the Gabelle gave rise to a wholesale system of smuggling, with its usual accompaniment the most severe and sanguinary laws for its suppression. Edward III. called it Philippe de Valois' "Salique Law," a Royal pun, which showed that lightness of heart in conducting a frivolous and desolating war was not confined to the present day. It need not be said that the Gabelle was one of the first taxes abolished by the States-General in 1789.

Abbeville has long been distinguished for the excellence of its woollen and cotton manufactures, the former of which owes its origin to the enterprise of a Dutchman named Van Robais or Robetz, who established here a large cloth factory in 1669. In this he was assisted and encouraged by the celebrated financier, Jean Baptiste Colbert, who had once himself served as an apprentice to a woollen-draper, and was therefore well acquainted with the trade. To this enlightened and patriotic Minister not only Abbeville, but many other towns in France owe very much of their commercial importance.

Abbeville, indeed, is indebted to Colbert for almost all its prosperity. The impulse he gave to one branch of its manufactures—that of the finest black cloth—has extended itself to many other enterprises, such as its glassworks and tanneries, its establishments for bleaching and printing, and its manufactories of calico, jewellery, and paper. In the development of these branches of its industry, it is aided by its river and railway, its proximity to the seaport of St. Valéry, and its ready communication with the interior of France and Belgium. The incubus of the German occupation is now removed, and the wonderful elasticity and recuperative energy that characterise the French will soon restore the manufacturers of France to their wonted prosperity, if the country will but listen to the wise counsels of those who are endeavouring to point the moral of the rude lesson they have lately been learning.

Blessed with a climate and soil of unsurpassed excellence, France is the abode of a generous and refined people, of unrivalled ingenuity in all the arts that adorn and grace civilisation. It is a deplorable fact that her history is for the most a record of wars and revolutions, and that her industry has been so often checked, and her sunny plains and fertile valleys have been so often deluged with blood, to avenge some fancied wrong to a too susceptible honour, to increase the limits of an already compact and homogeneous empire, or to enhance her reputation for the vain boast of military glory.

The foundation-stone of a new Masonic hall was laid at Lincoln last week. The cost of the building will be £4000.

A useful pamphlet has been issued by the Accident Insurance Company, of 7, Bank-buildings, which has been prepared for their policy-holders by Mr. Alfred Smee, F.R.S., the surgeon to the Bank of England. It consists of instructions for the prompt treatment of accidents and other emergencies before the arrival of medical aid.

On Monday afternoon there was a serious disturbance arising out of trade disputes, at Hawthorn's factory, Newcastle-on-Tyne. As some of the imported workmen were returning from dinner they were set upon by a mob and stoned. Two workmen and another man received considerable injuries. Disturbances of a less serious nature have taken place at Sir William Armstrong's factory.

The deputation of the French Ambulance Society continue to be received enthusiastically by the inhabitants of Dublin. On Thursday week an address was presented to them by the Irish Ambulance Society, and in the evening they were entertained to a banquet, where there were most disloyal manifestations. Count Flavigny promised the help of France to Ireland in her hour of need, and Mr. Martin, M.P., spoke a good deal of seditious nonsense.

FINE ARTS.

SCULPTURES BY MR. FOLEY.

Mr. Foley recently attended a meeting at Dublin for the purpose of affording information respecting the progress of the national O'Connell monument, upon which he has been some years engaged. The sculptor's recent illness has retarded this very important and elaborate work, but we are glad to learn that several of the principal portions are nearly finished, and Mr. Foley confidently expects to be able to complete the whole in three years more. This promises to be, for originality of conception, variety and harmony of composition, and artistic workmanship, the most successful monument by any British sculptor of our time. The matchless statues of Goldsmith and Burke from the same hand, now in Dublin, are fitting preludes to a monument which, we believe, will prove to be quite unique. As, however, the public at large probably know little respecting this great work, a description of the design, from the model in the sculptor's London studio, may not be unacceptable.

The monument, then, will be the result of a subscription, which exceeded £10,000 when the commission for its execution was given to Mr. Foley. Its height will be 42 feet. The design, while pyramidal in general form, is divided into three parts, comprising allegorical figures, a bold relief, and the portrait statue. The plan of the base resembles the form of an Irish cross, at the four corners of which are pedestals supporting so many winged Victories. These are emblematical of "Patriotism"—bearing sword and shield, as ready to defend her native land; "Fidelity"—attended by an Irish wolfhound, and holding a compass, indicative of constancy to her cause; "Courage"—strangling a serpent, and leaning upon the fasces, symbolical of power by unity; and "Eloquence"—appealing to Reason and Judgment. Within the space enclosed by these figures are architectural forms, wherein are placed the arms of the four provinces. The wings of the Victories are outspread backwards, thus giving importance to the mass of the base, and at the same time carrying the eye upwards by their beautiful lines—as the significance of these figures points to the subjects and statue above. The elevated shaft of the massive central pedestal is surrounded by groups and figures, in basso and alto relievo, represented as hastening to hear Erin's proclamation of their newly-gained liberties. This relief is a work of great power. In the front, her hair wreathed with shamrock, her harp beside her, and the chains which hitherto bound her lying broken at her feet, stands the figure of Erin. In her left hand she holds the Emancipation Act, while with her right she points upward to O'Connell as her champion and deliverer. To the right is a group of ecclesiastics, the principal of whom, a Bishop, is directing the attention of some students to the privileges contained in the Act which Erin presents to the assembled nation. Then come the Poet and Historian, the Artist and Musician; the Artisan follows, succeeded by the Soldier and Sailor. To the left a group of Peasants eagerly press forward; next, as representing Trade, Commerce, and Municipal authority, follows the Lord Mayor; Law and Order find their exponent in the Counsellor; and Science in the Philosopher and Physician. Completing the circle stand the Peer and Statesman, earnestly conversing on the future working of the Act. Numerous other figures are seen in the background. The cap of the pedestal is enriched by a wreath of shamrocks, leaf and flower alternating. Crowning the composition is the figure of O'Connell, which in the final work will be twelve feet high. He is draped in the cloak by which he was so well known; in his right hand he holds a roll of papers; the left rests in the breast of his buttoned coat. The materials of the monument are bronze and granite.

Mr. Foley's name can hardly be mentioned without associating with it the important works upon which he is engaged for the Albert Memorial, Hyde Park—the great statue of the Prince Consort, for the centre of the shrine, and the "Asia," one of the four largest groups of the base. The latter, we are happy to say, is very nearly completed, awaiting only a few finishing touches. The rough model of the statue of the Prince, which was so long concealed under a gigantic packing-case beneath the canopy of the memorial, has now been removed to the artist's studio. The long and severe illness from which Mr. Foley has lately recovered dates from his working last summer on this model *in situ*, in order to adapt it as perfectly as possible to its situation. This illness has retarded the work by nearly a year; but the sculptor calculates that the finished model will be ready for casting by about the end of next summer. Some considerable alterations were made in the figure while on its pedestal, so as to render less apparent the foreshortening inevitable when viewing the statue from the comparatively narrow space to the south, which, of course, is the natural point of view, the lighting during great part of the day throughout the year coming from that quarter, and that being the side on which nine tenths of the spectators will involuntarily arrive at their point of station. Never was a greater mistake perpetrated than that of constructing the walk made some months ago with an avenue of trees, at the back of the monument, thereby opening a vista through which the monument will be rendered dark against the sky, to say nothing of the incongruous mass presented by the Albert Hall as a background. The blunder is greatly aggravated by the line of the walk not corresponding with the axes of the monument and Albert Hall, the consequence being that, viewed from this walk, the monument appears to be thrust considerably out of its place, to the left. How so glaring an error against the first principles even of common landscape-gardening could have been committed is hard to understand. From an inspection of the small model of the architectural portion of the monument, with the statue of the Prince as it will appear when completed, which Mr. Foley has been at the pains to prepare, we feel confident that some of the objections which have been prematurely raised against the attitude of the statue will be found to be without foundation. A standing figure would doubtless have been far more easy of execution, but less significant. A kneeling figure, which some have proposed, would also have been less difficult; but it would have been altogether inappropriate, and quite out of keeping alike with the situation of the monument and its intention and most of the accessory sculptures. This is not a mortuary memorial, designed for a church tomb; nor does it affect to be in any sense an ecclesiastical testimonial. In sentiment, however, the sitting position is perfectly expressive and suitable. It may be taken to imply that a great secular task has been accomplished. Its reward is attained beneath our eyes, and has not still to be prayed for; the personage who has performed the task may rest and repose in contemplation of the fulfilment of his hopes. We enthrone him, so to speak, as the genius loci, in a shrine typical of our memories of his benefactions. And when we think of the dignity and majesty with which the antique sculptors invested their seated statues of Jupiter, we may hope that our best living English sculptor may not altogether fail to convey a right impression of the Prince in this his artistic apotheosis.

MINING OPERATIONS AT CHATHAM.

The authorities of the School of Military Engineering at Brompton barracks have ordered an extended series of mining siege operations for the instruction of the officers and men of the corps of Royal Engineers, which were last week brought to a close. There were attacking and defending parties, who, by mining and counter-mining, endeavoured to get the best of each other under the earth. Captain Maingay was the director of the attack, having three assistant directors, twenty-five officers, five staff sergeants, and 200 non-commissioned officers and men, with working parties of infantry, under him Captain Parnell was director of the defence, with two assistant directors, thirteen officers, and about eighty non-commissioned officers and sappers under him. As far as possible, of course with due regard to the lives and limbs of those engaged, everything in the mimic siege was carried out as in actual warfare. The works were at the right demi-bastion in front of St. Mary's Barracks. A committee of officers of the Royal Engineers, with Colonel Lennox, C.B., V.C., as president, stood as arbitrators between defenders and assailants. No less than 6000 lb. of powder was used in the attack and 3000 lb. in the defence. To prevent possible ill results, the quantity of powder to be exploded at once was limited, and also the depth at which it was to be deposited—disadvantages to the besieging party; while the besiegers could not, without injury to their own side, in any case use very large charges. There were two charges of 1000 lb. of powder deposited by the attacking party—much less than would be used in actual fighting—for a special purpose; but these charges have not been exploded, being reserved to be used at the expected grand display of siege operations later in the year. The defending party were considered at the close of the operations to have been the most successful, the greater portion of the works of the attacking party having been destroyed by them. The whole of the operations have been most interesting and instructive to the officers and men engaged.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

The annual rifle contest for the Scrubbs challenge plate, value 100 gs., took place, on Thursday week, among the best shooting representatives of the volunteer corps using the rifle-ranges at Wormwood-scrubbs. After some splendid shooting, the Queen's were again declared the winners of the plate, which is now their property, having been won by them three years in succession. It will be remembered that the Queen's also won the old Scrubbs plate, of the same value, which was in the form of a Saxon shield, in silver. The regiments against which the Queen's had to contend on this occasion were the St. George's, West Middlesex, Paddington, and Victorias.

Last Saturday a Snider rifle contest for prizes valued at upwards of £400 was begun at Staines-moor by the West London, commanded by Lord Truro, and continued during the whole of the present week.

The battalion prize-meeting of the 19th Surrey took place, last Saturday and Monday, at the butts at Esher. The prize-winners were as follow:—The Hon. Colonel H. Bagot Chester's cup (value £10 10s.) was won by Sergeant-Major Ellwood; Lieutenant-Colonel Labrow's prizes by Sergeant Wright, Corporal Hudson, and Private Rosenberg; Major Harding's prize (£5 5s.), by Sergeant Sexby; Mr. M'Arthur's, M.P., prize (£5 5s.), by Corporal Young. The other prizemen were Corporal Collis, Private Cromer, Private Hudson, Corporal Redford, Corporal Hathaway, Ensign Jones, Lieutenant Richards, Sergeant Smith, Private Fox, Private Wright, Sergeant Holland, Sergeant Hart, Private Bonnett, Sergeant Buckland, Sergeant Garland, and Captain Cade. The recruit prizemen were Privates C. Fruen, Ruse, Webb, Croft, Morgan, A. H. Smith, T. Doughty, Hollaman, Spackman, and S. Smith. The match between married and single was won this year, for the first time, by the single team by thirteen points. The total value of the prizes was about £100.

Last Saturday the London Irish held its annual prize meeting, as heretofore, at the Government ranges, Milton, next Gravesend. The prizes competed for were given by Prince Arthur, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Marquis and Marchioness of Donegall, Earl Belmore, Lord Conyngham, and others.

The members of the 5th Administrative Battalion of Lancashire Volunteers have this week encamped at Furness Abbey, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Ramsden. They assembled last Saturday, and there were in camp during the first night 452 men. The volunteers are from Barrow, Lancaster, Ulverston, Hawkshead, and Cartmel. On Sunday, the weather being very wet, the volunteers had some of the unfavourable experiences of camping. The tents, however, withstood the rain well, and the canvas generally proved waterproof.

A review of regular troops and volunteers took place, last Saturday afternoon, in Heaton Park. About 3000 troops were present. They consisted of the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards, the 8th (King's) Regiment of Infantry, the 1st Lancashire Light Horse, the 19th Lancashire Artillery Volunteers, the 1st Manchester Volunteers, the 2nd Manchester Volunteers, the 3rd Manchester Volunteers, and the 56th Lancashire Volunteers (Salford). Lieutenant-Colonel Shute, at the close of the review, called the commanding officers together, and expressed himself much pleased with the manner in which the volunteers had acquitted themselves, and especially with the way in which the guns had been served.

The annual prize meeting of the Warwickshire Rifle Association in Lord Leigh's deer park, Stoneleigh, concluded on Tuesday. The principal battalion prizes were gained by Private Westley, Coventry; Sergeant Bruce, Stratford; Corporal Knight, Leamington; and Corporal Howard, Coventry. The Hon. Colonel Scott's challenge cup was won by the second Leamington company, Lord Leigh's by the first Leamington, and Lord Leigh's cup by Corporal Wright, Rugby. Lord Leigh, Lord Lieutenant of the county, presented the prizes.

Lord Vivian, the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, in bidding farewell, on Tuesday afternoon, to the volunteers of the eastern division of the county, commented severely on the inefficiency of the officers, but expressed himself pleased with the fitness for their duties exhibited by the men.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Submarine Telegraph Company, on Tuesday, the report and accounts were agreed to, and a dividend was declared at the rate of 15 per cent per annum.

It is stated that Mr. John Gilbert, President of the Society of Painters in Water Colours, is to be knighted; and it is understood that the dignity is offered to the president of this distinguished body of artists as a public recognition of an art which in its modern form of expression is peculiarly British, and which the Society of Painters in Water Colours, as the representative institution from its foundation in 1804, has done so much to foster and elevate.

A LAST SKETCH IN PARLIAMENT.

The wonderful spirit which sustained the physical powers of members of the House of Commons during a Session occupying from Feb. 9 to Aug. 21, during which no less than 170 hours were occupied in sittings after midnight, was potent almost to the very last. For on that which was the ultimate debating night—ninety-eight gentlemen were found in the precincts of the Palace of Westminster when the final division of the Session was called. That so many of them were present during the discussion it would be inexact to say; but they were ready when needed for that which is, after all, the prime function of a representative of the people. And yet the debate was one which, four months previously, would have attracted attention, and in some respects even then was calculated to rouse the drowsy ears of an audience in a state of Parliamentary plethora. The subject was a controversial one between the Government and Irish members, and the question whether Mr. Smyth and Mr. Sullivan, of home-rule notoriety, had a right to convene and conduct a public meeting in Phoenix Park without being bludgeoned (the word was most frequent in the discussion) by the police, while Mr. Odger and Mr. Bradlaugh spouted Republicanism unheeded in Hyde Park at their pleasure. It was the second edition of a debate on the subject, and it was reopened by Colonel White, who had been on the previous occasion with difficulty restrained from flooding the House with indignation. A very typical member is this gentleman. A Guardsman and a dandy of the languid school, he represents the county of Tipperary, which, rightly or wrongly, suggests roughness and uncivilisation; and it is hardly to be expected that its specialties would be exemplified in the particular member which it has chosen. But Colonel White is an exemplar of that school of officers and gentlemen who, apparently formed and trained for a "squire of dames," is constituted like the hero of some French novels, having a frame of iron and sinews of steel, so that he is prepared, on occasion, to fight a drayman pugilistically, and beat him. He came out as a debater decidedly athletically, and he censured (oh! that one could dare write "pitched into") the Government with as much unction as he did on the Army Bill, and that is saying a great deal. Possibly some people may have an idea that an Irish Nationalist and home-rule advocate is a sort of ogre, and that, even when surrounded by the influences and decors of Parliament, must be always making some sort of hullabaloo—must be something of the same kind of orator as, say, an Irish Solicitor-General, except that he is always defying the Government and all its works, and the other defending both with all the indiscretion of exaggeration. But Mr. Smyth and Mr. Martin, who are the only home-rule Irish members proper, are calculated curiously to disillusion people who have the ogre in their minds; for milder—we will not say meekermen (for though they are quiet they are strong speakers) could not be found; and a member—say, for Cork—may be backed to utter more "blatherumskate" in half an hour than either of them would develop in a whole Session; in fact, they could develop none of that Hibernian oratory.

In this debate Mr. Smyth had a special right to speak, and to speak as a witness, for he was chairman of the meeting in Phoenix Park. He told his story with great skill, for he put forward everything that was likely to make the case against the authorities and the police complete; and a studied moderation of tone tended to exclude any suggestion of undue exaggeration on his own side, while under every word there ran a current sarcasm which was very effective. When he was asserting his principles, his manner became more intense, his voice deepened, and he rolled out well-constructed sentences, full of sentiments which were redolent of conviction. Well would it be if the party that wishes to bind Ireland in bonds of social and political sympathy with the rest of the kingdom possessed one or two such advocates. So great was the effect of Mr. Smyth's speech that, though it was evident that Mr. Dowse had been preparing to answer it, the Prime Minister intervened in person, and, perhaps, not having too much confidence in his case, put forth all his dialectic powers, and was adroit and dexterous enough, but hardly satisfying to the Irish patriots who had got a loud-sounding grievance. There was much more of the debate which was noticeable, and much that was common enough. There was Sir Dominic Corrigan in a speech accurately balanced to suit an adherent of the Government and a member for Dublin at the same time, and the manner of which was, as usual, suggestive of O'Connell plentifully diluted; and there was the Solicitor-General stirring himself up to the highest point of virtuous indignation, and endeavouring by rapidity and vehemence to prevent himself from making jokes, and so cruelly disappointing the bulk of his audience, which was quite prepared to accept bludgeons and broken heads, from a comic point of view; and there was Mr. Jacob Bright, with his hybrid voice and manner, denouncing, with the sort of vigour which might be expected from "a sucking dove," the Tory sentiments set forth by Mr. Gladstone. But towards the end the discussion was only galvanised by Mr. Downing and Sir John Gray, who, having before had their say, were tame duplications.

In many ways the Session which has just concluded has been an eccentric one, and its closing day was marked by features of more or less novelty. In the first place, the Lords met much earlier than the Commons, and thus opportunity was afforded to Lord Redesdale—hoping, perhaps, that the shade of Lord Lyndhurst was not looking down upon him—to make a "review of the Session," which was delivered with the elocution which is peculiar to him, and which is specially developed when he is moving the second reading or putting the clauses in Committee of unopposed bills, and consists in gabbling the formal words in repetition as fast as his lingual organs will permit, and that is very fast indeed. No one could have been better fitted to reply to him than Lord Halifax, who was to a great extent as unintelligible as he, though in another way. But no one can conceive what it was in a speech—if it could be so called—of Lord Denman which pricked the Lord Chancellor so sharply as to cause him to rise and pour forth one of those rapid, animated addresses which always suggest that, large, ready, and abundant as is the noble and learned Lord's supply of words, they are neither ready enough nor ample enough to give out his thoughts and ideas in proportionate rush. In the mean time, whether by accident or design, the Speaker did not come into the Commons until a quarter of an hour after the time fixed; so that, just by the time that forty members were driven in, certain sounds from the lobby indicated that "Black Rod" was approaching to summon the House to the Lords to take part in the final ceremony of prorogation. At that moment Mr. Cardwell began to read a long letter from Sir Roundell Palmer, excusing himself for not having been present to give his opinion on the vexed question of the Royal Warrant in person, and then occurred something at which those who hold the traditions of Parliament in reverence must have been shocked. It is usual, no matter what is occurring or who is speaking in the Commons, that when the three solemn taps on the door of the House, by which "Black Rod" demands admittance, are given, there is at once cessation. Now some influence was used to induce that absolute functionary to loiter, and even to pause at the door

until Mr. Cardwell had finished; and then he did his office in the usual way. It is important to note that this dereliction of duty was the act of the "Yeoman" Usher of the Black Rod, who is only a deputy, and it is a question whether the "Gentleman Usher," who has grown old in the traditions of his function, would have suffered himself to be so obstructed.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Yesterday week Lord Northbrook, at the request of Lord Truro, gave explanations relative to the recent artillery meeting at Shoeburyness, and promised that his suggestion of a Volunteer Transport Corps should receive consideration. On the report of the Vaccination Act (1867) Amendment Bill, Lord Redesdale moved to omit clause 10, limiting the amount of the penalties to be inflicted on contumacious parents. Lord Halifax stated the reasons which had induced the Select Committee to recommend a relaxation of the provisions of the Act in the case of persons entertaining conscientious objections to vaccination. On a division the clause was struck out, the Contents being 7 and the Not-Contents 8.

The Consolidated Fund Bill was, on Saturday, passed through its remaining stages. The Customs and Inland Revenue Bill, the Vaccination Act (1867) Amendment Bill, the Glebe Loans (Ireland) Act (1870) Amendment Bill, and the Chain Cables and Anchors Bill were read the third time and passed. Lord Redesdale, in subsequently moving for a return of bills sent to the House of Commons, availed himself of the opportunity to criticise the manner in which the public business had been conducted during the Session, contrasting it with many previous years, and complaining especially of the manner in which the Army Regulation Bill and the Ballot Bill had been sent to their Lordships. Lord Halifax defended the Government, urging that the bills indicated by the noble Lord had been demanded by the country and affirmed by large majorities in the Commons, and that the Administration would have failed in its duty if it had not done its utmost to get them passed into law. Some observations followed from Lord Denman, to which the Lord Chancellor replied, and the motion of Lord Redesdale was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Last Friday's sitting was almost engrossed by Irish questions. Mr. Johnston complained of the suppression of the "Apprentice Boys'" procession, on the 12th. The hon. gentleman suggested that processions of all kinds and parties should be equally allowed, "providing they were of a peaceable character." Such a proviso would render processions in Ireland impossible at present. Lord Hartington defended the policy of the Irish Executive; and, with regard to the Dublin riots, he announced that the Government would issue a Commission of Inquiry into the conduct of the police as soon as it could be done without prejudice to legal proceedings now pending. The Government would not in future interfere with meetings, "otherwise unobjectionable," that might be held in such parts of Phoenix Park as were not required for the recreation of the people.

The House sat for half an hour on Saturday and agreed to the Lords' amendments to the Vaccination Bill, including the excision of clause 10, which relieves recalcitrants from all further penalties after the payment of 20s. in fines. Mr. Forster said he consented to this very reluctantly, and only because the bill would otherwise have been lost. Lord Enfield, in reply to Mr. Sheridan, said that, as long as the Mexican Government refused to make the first step towards asking this country to renew diplomatic relations with them, it would be hardly right for such a proposition to emanate from Great Britain.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.—THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE.

Both Houses met at half-past one o'clock on Monday afternoon, when, after the Royal assent had been given to several bills, the following Message from the Queen was read by the Lord Chancellor.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The time has now arrived when I am enabled to release you from your attendance in Parliament, and to command your unwearied labours for the public good.

I acknowledge with satisfaction the loyal readiness with which you have made provision for my beloved children, Princess Louise and Prince Arthur.

The great events and important changes which have recently occurred on the Continent of Europe have not compromised the friendly relations subsisting between the Crown of the United Kingdom and foreign Powers. Whatever part I may take in those international questions which from time to time may arise will continue to be taken with no other view than the maintenance of general concord and public right.

The Conference which was sitting in London at the commencement of the Session was joined during its deliberations by a French Plenipotentiary, and it considered and agreed upon a revision of those stipulations of the Treaty of 1856 which concerned the Black Sea and the Bosphorus. I trust that the unanimous decision of the Powers, which has been recorded in a new treaty, may assist in securing the tranquillity and welfare of the East.

It is with a special satisfaction that I refer on the present occasion to our relations with the United States of America. By the Treaty of Washington, modes of settlement have been fixed for several questions which had long remained in dispute.

My communications with the American Government have not been without the promise of advantage to other countries. The President has concurred with me in an application of that principle of amicable reference which was proclaimed by the Treaty of Paris, and which I rejoice to have had an opportunity of recommending by example. And we have also agreed in the adoption of certain rules for guiding the maritime conduct of neutrals, which may, I trust, ere long obtain general recognition, and form a valuable addition to the code of international law.

I place full reliance upon the disposition of the American Government to carry forward with cordiality and zeal the subsidiary arrangements which have been determined on for the execution of the treaty.

I shall apprise the Parliament of Canada that the provisions which require its consent are, in my view, highly conducive to the interests of the Dominion. On these provisions, however, that Parliament will pass an independent and final judgment.

The Government of France has signified its desire to alter some of the provisions of the Commercial Treaty of 1860, which is now terminable, upon a notice of twelve months, by either of the contracting States. I am anxious to meet the wishes of a friendly Power, and to give scope for any measures calculated to meet its fiscal exigencies; but I should witness with concern any change of a nature to restrict that commercial intercourse between the two countries which has done so much for their closer union.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I thank you for the liberal supplies which, under the circumstances of the year, I directed my Government to ask from you; and for the sum of money you have voted in order to meet the charge of the compensation required by the abolition of purchase in the Army.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I observe with concern that you have not been able to bring to a definitive issue the treatment of some of the subjects which were recommended to you in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Session.

But several important laws have been added to the Statute Book.

By the Army Regulation Bill you have made a liberal provision for the officers of the Army, who will no longer be permitted on retirement to sell their commissions to their successors; and, by transferring to the Executive Government powers, in respect to the auxiliary forces, which have hitherto been vested in the Lords Lieutenants of counties, you have laid the foundation for measures calculated to effect a closer union among the various land forces of the kingdom.

The Act by which, after a full examination of the facts, you conferred extraordinary powers on the Viceroy of Ireland for the repression of agrarian outrage in Westmeath, has thus far answered its purpose. Elsewhere in that portion of the United Kingdom there is a gratifying immunity from crime, and agriculture and trade are prosperous.

By the measures relating to University Tests, to the repeal of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act, and to the laws which affect trades unions, you have brought to a conclusion long-continued and serious controversies.

The Local Government Board Act will, I trust, prepare the way for important sanitary and administrative improvements; and the Act relating to the Judicial Committee will supply a much-needed element of strength to an important tribunal and afford a prospect of clearing away a serious arrear of appeals now before the Privy Council.

But there is every likelihood that for a long time to come the great and varied interests of the United Kingdom and of the empire at large, together with the extending demands of modern society, may prevent any lightening of the honourable but arduous burdens of legislation.

The condition of the revenue, the revived activity of trade, and the prospects of the harvest are subjects for congratulation; and I trust that these and all other bounties of Providence will ever meet their fitting acknowledgment in the hearts of a grateful people.

Parliament was then formally prorogued.

POSTAL BUSINESS.

From the report of the Postmaster-General, issued on Saturday, it appears that the post-cards circulating through the post-offices in the United Kingdom during one week are found to number about 1,668,000—1,374,000 in England, 167,000 in Scotland, and 127,000 in Ireland. During the quarter ended Dec. 31 the newspapers circulating through the post are estimated to have been about 22,500,000, as against 20,000,000 in the corresponding quarter of 1869. There were 862,722,000 letters delivered last year; 108,668,000 newspapers, book, and pattern packets; money orders issued to the amount of £19,993,987, and £15,099,104 deposited in the post-office savings-banks by 1,183,153 depositors. The number of registered letters passing through the post rose from 2,727,763 in 1869 to 3,005,994 in 1870, and of these the number lost was twelve altogether. There was also an increase in the number of valentines. The total number passing through the London offices is estimated to have risen from 1,448,841 in 1869 to 1,545,755 in 1870, and the number posted in London from 1,241,864 to 1,306,201.

In London alone during the past year about 10,565,000 yards of string were used for tying up the letters for the country, and about 17,637 lb. of sealing-wax for securing the bags in which the letters were contained, the bags in use being about 700,000 in number. In England and Wales the quantity of ink supplied for impressing post-marks on letters and for obliterating postage-stamps was about 4 tons, and the number of forms employed, exclusive of anything in the nature of a book, amounted to 20,692,800. Since July last all stores for the country exceeding 5 lb. in weight, which used to be sent with the mails, have been dispatched to their destination by luggage-train and been paid for at parcels rates. The stores so forwarded during the nine months ended March 31 exceeded 114 tons in weight.

"As regards the approaching changes in the postal tariff," Mr. Monsell says, "I had hoped it might be possible to introduce them this very day (Aug. 1); and, although disappointed in this, I will take care that they are not postponed longer than is absolutely necessary to complete the requisite preparations. The effect of those changes upon the number of letters as well as upon the revenue I expect to be in a position to show in the report for 1871."

Ashton-under-Lyne, though late in the race with the surrounding manufacturing towns, is about to acquire a noble public park through the munificence of Lord Stamford and several of its wealthy and public-spirited inhabitants. The late Mr. Samuel Oldham several years ago bequeathed £7000 as the nucleus of a fund for obtaining such a park, and now a gentleman who lately purchased Highfield House and its park-like grounds, the original cost of which was £15,000, has presented it to the public for the trifling consideration of £2000. The park is nine acres in extent, and is subject to a yearly chief rent of £131 to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, which his Lordship has agreed to cancel. The noble Lord has agreed to give, for a mere nominal consideration, for extending the park, a sheet of water ten acres in extent, known as Chadwick's dams, with the addition of a plot of land, which will make the whole area acquired for the park close upon fifty acres.

The annual exhibition at Falmouth of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society, the primary object of which is to promote and encourage an industry for the investigation of scientific pursuits and to encourage the fine arts, was held last week. The judges in the several departments have issued reports and awarded prizes, consisting of silver and bronze medals and money, the prize list being altogether very liberal. There are exhibitors from all parts of the country. In the mechanical department are many ingenious inventions of all sorts, and there is a decided improvement in naval architecture over that of previous years; there are some splendid models of steamships and of a battery in course of construction at Newcastle. In many branches of natural history the exhibition is deficient, but the botanical collections are creditable. The fine arts department is very strong, and in the department for photography the works are of a high order generally. The school productions are numerous, and on the whole satisfactory. The needlework is particularly good.



A PICNIC.

UNCLE GEORGE'S PICNIC.

In no way is the difference between persons' idiosyncrasies more fully shown than in their manner of keeping the anniversaries of great events, and of giving thank-offerings for strokes of good fortune. A family that I know ushers in birthdays and the like with the addition of strong coffee, never otherwise tasted, to the breakfast-table, which is, for the nonce, decorated with flowers; there being a bouquet or flowering plant for the person specially concerned. One friend, no bookworm, shows his joy by presenting new books. Some make costly gifts in jewellery. A maiden lady, dear as the apple of the eye to all who know her, sends packages of tea, with bright shillings, sometimes half-crowns, inclosed, far and near, to her poor, hardworking neighbours.

But Uncle George, while practising many of these graceful amenities, goes in chiefly for Picnics. These are his specialty. In their management he is superb, for long use has made him perfect. The few years that I have had the pleasure of living with him have made me well acquainted, by means of his picnics, with the neighbourhood of London. And where can you find lovelier scenes? One time, perched on some Surrey hill, we feast our eyes on a panoramic landscape as charming as any in the world. Then some sweetly rural spot to the north of London holds us spell-bound. Epping Forest (alas, fast disappearing!) has frequently rung with our mirth. Not only is my uncle skilled in providing the material comforts; what has far more to do with the making a picnic go off successfully, he is very careful in assorting his parties; and he has such exquisite tact and *bonhomie* that any little stiffness or constraint which may be felt by one or two at first soon passes off, and all are fused into a genial companionship.

This summer my uncle had made a great speculation, the results of which had, as the phrase goes, outstripped his most sanguine expectations. And one evening, when the ladies had left the dinner-table (for, besides myself, his only nephew, he commonly has a goodly bevy of nieces, sisters and cousins of mine, staying at his house), he gave me the details of his recent prosperous venture.

"So you see, Tom," quoth my uncle, filling his glass and pushing the bottle to me, "I don't think we can do better than have a picnic, one jollier than usual; and this time we will have it somewhere, at a secluded spot I know, on the banks of the Thames." I found afterwards that this place was associated with a tender memory in my uncle's heart. We soon joined the ladies, and the subject was well discussed by them and some gentlemen, friends of the family, who dropped in during the evening. Many nooks were proposed, and their respective merits discussed. But uncle, usually so docile and flexible, rejected every place mentioned. He had made up his mind where to have the picnic, and no one should turn him from it, nor should anyone know until the day where it was. They must rely on his judgment and taste. As these had never been known to fail, there was a general acquiescence; and, after some reminiscences of former picnics, and much sanguine prophesying that the coming one would eclipse them all, the conversation branched off to other subjects.

For many weeks the rain and chilly weather precluded any thought of a picnic. At last, however, as the world knows, the sun triumphed. A day, just before the break-up of the season, was fixed for our picnic, the invitations were issued, and the all-important morning rose with promise of a glorious day. So it turned out. Early in the forenoon there was a rattle of broughams at uncle's door. An ample breakfast was quickly discussed, amid much chatter and laughter, and we were soon on our way, in open carriages, to our terra incognita.

The dusty, crowded roads were avoided, and we were taken along devious by-roads, that wound in and out among pleasant fields of newly-mown grass and of nodding corn ready for the sickle. In some places, indeed, the two harvests were going on together. Above our heads the boughs of meeting trees, thickly interlaced, had taken toll from the high-piled hay-carts that had passed beneath; and here and there so low were the branches that the ladies' hair was somewhat disarranged by contact with them. But these slight mishaps were taken in good part, and only added to the general hilarity.

Every now and then we caught a glimpse of the Thames, by whose side we lovingly wandered; and at each near approach to it cries were heard from the gentlemen, "Here it is!" But the road would turn from the river, and we with it. At last we came to a sudden bend of the river, which all pronounced more charming than anything we had yet seen. The river seemed to run in here to meet and greet us. There was no further turning for us. We had reached our camping-ground. Mutual felicitations were exchanged on the beauty of the weather, and thanks were given to my uncle for making us acquainted with such a delightful spot. Soon the servants, aided by the gentlemen, spread in the shade a bounteous repast, which was attacked by keen appetites. Gentle airs moderated the noonday heat, made a rustling music in the trees overhead, and just ruffled the water by our side; whilst a wood-pigeon near at hand cooed continuous welcome.

Before our mid-day meal was over shallows, with gay awnings, swept alongside our resting-place. In these we were borne rapidly along, during the hotter portions of the day, passing round secluded aits, skirting thickly-wooded banks, and every now and then coming upon solitary individuals in anchored punts, fishing with such stolid gravity as though they expected to hook wisdom and truth. Villas studded the banks, with here and there a statelier mansion on a gently-swelling hill—each a Happy Mount in its way—whose feet the waters lovingly caressed. Gigs flashed by, urged by stalwart arms; sometimes a steam-launch grunted its way, churning the waters; and stately swans, with their cygnets, were ever around us. After a long and delightful row orders were given for landing, and we were soon again at our happy camping-ground.

It has been stated that my uncle had the rare faculty of putting persons at their ease. On this occasion, however, there was a small cloud, which not even his skill could disperse. Harry Luttrell, the only son of my uncle's fast friend, had proposed to Alice Burton, one of my cousins, and had been refused. It was a matter of surprise and pain to uncle and myself, for I also liked Harry much. He was a good-looking young fellow, with considerable expectations, and his attentions had been seemingly well received by Alice up to a recent period. Indeed, she probably owed her life to him. One day, as Harry and I, accompanied by Alice and a young friend of hers (the torture and delight of my life), were having a pull on the Thames, a plank started, and our boat filled in a minute. Luckily we men were good swimmers, and we soon bore the ladies, scarcely the worse for their cold bath, to shore, Alice falling to Harry's lot. So that gratitude was interwoven with what we thought tenderer feelings.

I saw plainly that this rejection had given Alice as much pain as it had Harry, and, as there was a strong cousinly attachment between her and me, I ventured to draw her aside and to question her on the subject. I told her that she appeared to like him very well up to the time of her going to Wareham, and that on her return thence her manner seemed

constrained. What was the cause? Had she seen anyone there who had gained her affections? Or had she heard any ill report of Harry?

The latter, she said, was the case; but she could not talk on the matter even to me; besides, she was bound to secrecy.

I implored her to be careful, to be sure that the reason of her refusal was a valid one.

"Oh! yes; she was only too sure."

Loth to give up the matter, I said: "You know, of course, that Harry has a cousin, who is frequently at Wareham, much like him in person, rather handsomer, but a wild fellow—the antipodes of Harry in manners and conduct. Besides, I am pretty sure that our Harry has never been at Wareham."

Here Alice broke in:—"O, Tom; you have given me great relief. Yes, I see it now. It was that bold, bad cousin, of whose doings I was told, and not my Harry—not my Harry." Here she fell a-crying.

Matters, however, were soon put straight. I beckoned to Luttrell, and left the young couple alone. Presently they told uncle that there was now no cloud between them; and on their way Harry gave my hand a firm grip, Alice smiling at me through her glad tears.

With the welcome news uncle straightway became another man. New life was put into him. He proposed healths in bumpers to everybody on the slightest occasion. Others, too, felt somehow that a weight was removed. Jack Bannister, who will be a judge if logic and law lift a man to the Bench, mounted a forked tree and played his cornopean both long and loud. Sundry couples accepted the challenge, and fast and furiously as he played, so, whirlwind-like, they galoped round and round and in and out upon the greensward.

The reconciled couple, too deeply moved to join in this boisterous mirth, sat apart, under a sunshade, looking, and no doubt feeling, supremely happy. For myself, pleased with the union which I had been the means of bringing about, I fell to thinking of another union in which I was more vitally concerned, and wondering whether it would ever come about with clash of marriage bells. So, the better to pursue my thoughts and at the same time to enjoy a cigar, I threw myself on the ground. My madcap sister Ellen and that saucy puss Miss Edgecumbe, as tantalising as she is lovely, thinking me asleep, stole upon me for the purpose of teasing me with a bulrush. Watching through the brim of my straw hat their approach, I bidden my time, resolved to jump up at the right moment and wreak exemplary vengeance on the lips of one of my fair foes. Need I say which!

Meantime the day was drawing to a close, and the sun sent us some admonishing level gleams. All was bustle. The horses were put to the carriages, and we were whirled back to London, flecked, a part of the way, with streaks of golden light from the setting sun. Thus ended the best of Uncle George's picnics and the last day of our stay in town for the season.

To-morrow to fresh fields and pastures new.

ARCHERY MATCHES.

The last open match of the season, presuming that there will be no Irish meeting this year, has recently taken place at Teignmouth, where the ninth Grand Western resulted in the championship of the west being once more resumed by Mr. Walrond, who received the challenge claret-jug on a score of 851, from 179 hits, made on a double York round. Miss Ripley (North Wilts Society) regained her position as championess of the west, with a score of 699, her 131 hits including no less than twenty-two golds. The scoring of Admiral Lowe (Devon and Cornwall Society) and Mr. R. Price (Anglesea Archers) was also of an unusually excellent character, the former making 798 and the latter only one below that number of points. The best single day's total during the meeting was made in the handicap by Captain Hawkins Fisher—namely, 504; and there were two other performances worth notice—Mr. Walrond's crushing score, at 80 yards, of 184, from 36 hits, on the first day, and Admiral Lowe's 200, from 44 hits, at the 100 yards range the next day.

Excellent as were the leading scores at Teignmouth, they did not equal those recorded in favour of the successful competitors at the recent Crystal Palace meeting, where Captain Fisher made 960 points from 214 hits, and Mrs. W. Butt 713 from 133 hits.

At Cheltenham the persevering efforts of Captain Fisher were rewarded at the National Meeting with the champion medal of Great Britain, which he obtained by a score of 955 (205 hits), being the highest numbers gained by any Bowman in the public matches this year; Mrs. Horniblow, of Leamington, retaining the lady championship on the magnificent achievement of 746 points, gained with 138 hits. That lady, however, made even a higher total than this at the Leamington tournament—namely, 126 hits, valued at 768; Captain Fisher, on the same occasion, making among the gentlemen the best score of the meeting—917, from 205 hits.

Some of the most important of the provincial societies have recently held their annual meetings. For instance, that ancient association the Woodmen of Arden held their grand wardmote in their beautiful grounds at Meriden, where a distinguished company included Lady Leigh, Lady Adderley, Lady Duncombe, Lady Gwendoline Petre, the Hon. Mrs. Cholmondeley, &c. The silver arrow (distance 9 score yards) was won by Mr. T. Adams Beck; and the bugle horn (11 score yards) by the Rev. C. C. Beck, who also received the Master Forester's medal, that of Senior Verderer passing to the Rev. C. J. Newdigate.

In West Somersetshire Mrs. F. M. Dodington and Mr. F. Newton have been acquiring distinction and winning prizes; and among the South Devon Archers assembled in Powderham Park Mr. Walrond and Miss Ripley have, since the Teignmouth contest, upheld their grand Western honours. The challenge badge of the Hove Toxophilites is now held by Mrs. Heckstall Smith. The challenge medals of the Edgbaston (Birmingham) Society have been won by Miss Chance and Mr. J. L. Aston; the silver arrow of the Deddington Club by Mr. Tawney and Miss O. Ommaney.

The summer season of the Royal Toxophilite Society, Regent's Park, has terminated in Mr. Hicks becoming second lieutenant, Mr. W. Butt Budworth member, and Mr. Fryer captain of targets; the last named winning the gold medal.

Among the most interesting events on the tapis we may notice the shooting for the ancient silver or Scorton arrow (first shot for in 1673), on the archery-grounds at Leeds; and the North and South Wilts annual match at Wilton House, Salisbury.

The Admiralty have taken a vigorous step in regard to the officers who were responsible for the disaster to the Agincourt. Admirals Wellesley and Wilmot, who were respectively in command of the two divisions of the fleet, are superseded, whilst Captain Beamish, of the Agincourt, and Staff Commander Kiddle, of the Minotaur, are placed on half-pay. The officers thus dealt with have hitherto borne the highest character in their profession, but the Admiralty place the interests of the navy of England above any personal considerations.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will of the Right Hon. Lady Anne Fitz-Roy, daughter of George Augustus, first Earl of Burlington, and relict of the Right Hon. Lord Charles Fitz-Roy, P.C., who was formerly Vice-Chamberlain of the Queen's Household, and son of the fourth Duke of Grafton, was proved in the London Court, on the 7th ult., and the personality sworn under £14,000—the executors appointed being her son, Cavendish Charles Fitz-Roy, Esq., who is also acting; power being reserved to her nephew, the Most Noble William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire, and the Most Noble William Henry, Duke of Grafton. Her Ladyship was married in 1825, and died, May 27 last, at Elm Lodge, Hampton, aged eighty-four, having executed her will Dec. 8, 1868. Her Ladyship had a power of appointment and disposition over the sum of £10,000, under the will of her mother, the Right Hon. Elizabeth Countess of Burlington, and she has appointed four-tenths thereof to her son Cavendish, and the remaining six-tenths equally between her daughters Elizabeth and Maria, to whom she also bequeaths her jewels. To her son Cavendish she leaves his father's swords and medals, including a large medal presented to him by the Ionian Islanders. There are specific bequests to other members of her family. She has left legacies to her servants—to her butler £100, and smaller sums to her housekeeper and maids. The residue of her personal estate she leaves to her daughter, Maria Georgina Ann Fitz-Roy, for her own absolute use.

The will of General Sir Charles Routledge O'Donnell, Colonel of her Majesty's 18th Regiment of Hussars, formerly secretary to the Commander-in-Chief in Canada, and who had served on the Staff in Ireland, the son of Lieutenant-Colonel O'Donnell, E.I.C.—was proved in the principal registry in London, on the 18th inst., after motion and the decree of the Court. The personality in England was sworn under £25,000, by Lieutenant-Colonel John Vizo O'Donnell, one of the surviving executors, power being reserved to Colonel Joseph Walter Jasper Ouseley, E.I.C.; John Browne, Esq., an executor, having died. The will is dated May 1, 1868; and a codicil July 14, 1870. The gallant General died Nov. 18 last, at Donyland, near Colchester, aged seventy-six. To his wife, who is the eldest daughter of the late Major-General James Patrick Murray, C.B., and cousin to Alexander, eighth Baron Elibank, there is secured by a deed, dated 1866, an annuity of £270. He leaves to Mrs. Emma A. Buckley a legacy of £500; to Robert Edmund O'Donnell, £6000 and appoints him residuary legatee of both his real and personal estates. He devises his lands at Church Park to John, eldest son of his late cousin, Elliot O'Donnell. He bequeaths his leaseholds in Middlesex to Colonel Joseph W. J. Ouseley; and directs that a certain portion of his furniture is to go and be held as heirlooms with the lands of Trugh and Rugh, in the county of Clare.

The late Frederick Graves Moon, Esq., of Portman-square, who died on May 24 last, at Westbourne-grove, had left no will. Letters of administration of his personal estate and effects, estimated at £60,000, were administered to on the 14th inst., in the Court of Probate, by the father, Sir Francis Graham Moon, Bart. The deceased was the youngest son of Sir Francis, and died a bachelor, at the age of forty-one.

WEEKLY RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The Registrar-General gives the following return of births and deaths in London and in nineteen other large towns of the United Kingdom during the week ending Aug. 19:

In London 1992 births and 1715 deaths were registered. After making due allowance for increase of population, the births were 136 below, while the deaths exceeded by 173, the average numbers in the corresponding week of the last ten years. Zymotic diseases caused 682 deaths last week, including 80 from smallpox, 19 from measles, 21 from scarlet fever, 4 from diphtheria, 30 from whooping-cough, 31 from different forms of fever (of which 7 were certified as typhus), 19 as enteric or typhoid, and 5 as simple continued fever), and 425 from diarrhoea. The deaths referred to cholera and choleraic diarrhoea in London, which in the three previous weeks had been 17, 18, and 15, rose last week to 40, of which 33 were of infants not exceeding one year. The fatal cases of smallpox in London declined last week to 80, the lowest weekly number since the first week of the year. To different forms of violence 65 deaths were referred last week. Of these 47 were caused by accident or negligence, including 20 by fractures and contusions, 2 from burns and scalds, 13 from drowning, and 6 from suffocation. Four of the deaths from fractures and contusions were caused by horses or vehicles in the streets. To sunstroke 4 deaths were referred—2 of young children and 2 of adults. Four cases of murder and manslaughter, and no less than 12 of suicide, were registered during the week.

During the week 4620 births and 4164 deaths were registered in London and nineteen other large cities and towns of the United Kingdom. The aggregate mortality last week in these towns was at the rate of 30 deaths annually in every 1000 persons living. The annual rates of mortality last week in the seventeen English cities and towns, in the order of their topographical arrangement, were as follow:—London, 27 per 1000; Portsmouth, 22; Norwich, 21; Bristol, 26; Wolverhampton, 20; Birmingham, 27; Leicester, 40; Nottingham, 32; Liverpool, 37; Manchester, 37; Salford, 44; Bradford, 21; Leeds, 38; Sheffield, 36; Hull, 27; Sunderland, 49; and Newcastle-on-Tyne, 45. In Edinburgh the annual rate of mortality from all causes last week was 27 per 1000 persons living, in Glasgow 34 per 1000, and in Dublin 19.

In Paris 828 deaths were returned in the week ending the 18th inst., and the annual death-rate was equal to 24 per 1000 of the estimated population.

In Brussels 81 deaths occurred in the week ending the 12th inst., and the annual death-rate was 23 per 1000.

In Berlin during the week ending the 17th inst. 834 deaths were recorded, including 120 from smallpox and 309 from infantile diarrhoea, showing an annual rate of 54 per 1000.

In Vienna the 384 deaths in the week ending the 12th inst. gave an annual rate of 32 per 1000.

In Rome 131 deaths were registered in the week ending the 6th inst., and, calculated on the population estimated by Prince Pallavicini at 225,000, the annual death-rate was 30 per 1000.

During the week ending the 18th inst. 130 deaths by Asiatic cholera were reported in Königsberg. It is also prevailing in the East Prussian districts of Pillkallen, Olezko, Lyck, and Insterburg. In Berlin a sanitary commission has been appointed for each district, with voluntary committees.

In the city of New York 581 deaths were registered in the week ending the 29th ult., and the equivalent annual rate of mortality was 32 per 1000.

In Bombay the deaths registered during the week ending the 25th ult. were 256, and the mortality was at the annual rate of 16 per 1000.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

SIR EDWARD HUGHES, BART.

Sir Edward Hughes, sixth Baronet of East Bergholt, Suffolk, died at Lindfield, Sussex, on the 8th inst. He was born in 1809, the second and last surviving son of the Rev. Sir Richard Hughes, fourth Baronet, by Sarah Perring, his wife, daughter of the Rev. Richard Sleeman, and at the death of his brother, Sir Richard, on May 16, 1863, succeeded to the title. The first Baronet, Captain Richard Hughes, R.N., a Commissioner of the Dockyard at Portsmouth, entertained King George III. during his Majesty's visit to that arsenal; and the second Baronet, Sir Richard Hughes, was the famous Admiral who served as second in command under Lord Howe at the relief of Gibraltar, and gained a victory over the French off Barbadoes in 1782. Sir Edward, the subject of this notice, was never married, and is succeeded by his cousin, the present Sir Frederick Hughes, seventh Baronet, who is son of the late Rev. Robert Hughes, second son of the Rev. Sir Robert Hughes, the third Baronet. The heir presumptive is the Rev. Thomas Collingwood Hughes, Vicar of South Tawton, Devon.

SIR JOHN KINGCOME, K.C.B.

Admiral Sir John Kingcome, K.C.B., died, on the 7th inst., at 5, Windsor-villas, Plymouth, aged seventy-seven. He was born at Revelstoke, Devon, the son of Henry Kingcome, Esq., of that place; received his education at Plymouth, and entered the Navy in 1808. The following year he was present at the destruction of the French fleets in Aix Roads; and in 1815, after having served on the Channel, Irish, and Cape of Good Hope stations, became Lieutenant of the Princess Charlotte. Subsequently he commanded the Confiance schooner on Lake Huron, and was employed in New Zealand, Batavia, and Singapore. In 1828 he obtained the rank of Commander, and was on the East India station till 1838, when he was raised to post rank. Made a Vice-Admiral in 1864, he was placed on the retired list in 1866, and was promoted to be Admiral in 1869. He married, 1821, Louisa, daughter of William Scholl, Esq., and was left a widower in 1869.

COUNT DE SALIS.

John Francis William de Salis, Count of the Germanic or Holy Roman Empire, died at Hillingdon-place, Middlesex, on the 7th inst. He was born Aug. 25, 1825, the eldest son of the late Peter John Fane, Count de Salis, of whom and his family we gave a memoir in January of this year. Count de Salis, whose death we now record, was in the diplomatic service, and acted as Attaché to the British Legation at Turin from October, 1845, to December, 1849. He married, Feb. 11, 1862, Amelia Frances Harriet, eldest daughter of Christopher Tower, Esq., of Huntsmore Park, Bucks, and leaves John Francis Charles, present Count de Salis, and other issue.

THE HON. LUCIUS CARY.

The Hon. Lucius William Charles Augustus Frederick Cary, Master of Falkland, J.P. and D.L. for N.R. of Yorkshire, and late Captain in the 27th Foot, died, on the 6th inst., at Calverley Park, Tunbridge Wells. He was born, Nov. 24, 1831, the only child of Lucius Bentinck, present Viscount Falkland, by Amelia Fitzclarence, his first wife, sister of the late Earl of Munster, and was the lineal descendant of the celebrated Lucius, Lord Falkland, of the great Civil War. The Master of Falkland married, May 11, 1858, Sarah Christiana, only daughter of the late Major Henry Peach Keighly, but leaves no issue.

MR. CHARLES BUXTON, M.P.

Charles Buxton, Esq., of Fox Warren, Surrey, M.P. for the eastern division of that county, F.R.G.S., who died suddenly, on the 10th inst., at Lochearnhead Hotel, near Killin, Perthshire, was born, Nov. 18, 1823, the third son of the late Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart., M.P., of Colne Hall, Norfolk, by Hannah, his wife, fifth daughter of the late John Gurney, Esq., of Earlham, Norfolk. He completed his education at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. in 1843. Mr. Buxton, a magistrate for the counties of Norfolk and Surrey, and a partner in the well-known extensive brewing firm of Messrs. Truman, Hanbury, and Co., sat in Parliament, in the Liberal interest, for Newport, from 1857 to 1859; for Maidstone from 1859 to 1865; and for East Surrey from the latter year till his decease. He was author of several works, amongst others, a "Life of Sir Fowell Buxton," "Ideas of the Day on Policy," and "National Education in Ireland." He married, in 1850, Emily Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Holland, Bart., by whom he leaves issue."

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL GOLD.

Lieutenant-General Charles E. Gold, whose death at Dover is just announced, belonged to a family eminent for its military services, and acquired for himself considerable distinction. He entered the Army March 20, 1828, and, after nearly four years' service in British Guiana, was employed in Canada during the rebellion of 1839. Subsequently, for fifteen years he commanded the 65th Regiment in New Zealand, including the expedition to Wangari. In 1846 he commanded the troops at the capture of Waitara, and stormed and destroyed the fortified villages of Wareata and Warea (medal). His commissions bore date as follow:—Ensign, 1828; Lieutenant, 1831; Captain, 1836; Major, 1844; Lieutenant-Colonel, 1845; Major-General, 1860; and Lieutenant-General, 1868. General Gold's father, Colonel Gold, C.B., was second senior officer of the Royal Artillery at Waterloo; and his grandfather served under Wolfe at Quebec, and was killed at Bunker's Hill.

The largest rope in the world has been completed in Birmingham. It is about six miles long, 5½ inches in circumference, and weighs over sixty tons.

By the Act to enable her Majesty to provide for the support and maintenance of Prince Arthur, the annuity of £15,000 is to take effect from May 1 last and to be payable quarterly. The first payment will be due on Oct. 10, when the proportionate part of the annuity will be paid. The annuity is chargeable on the Consolidated Fund.

The promised annual subscriptions to the Irish Church sustentation in the diocese of Kerry amount, in the aggregate, to £2100; while the donations, up to the present time, for the same object, come up to nearly £6000. There have been, besides, gifts of houses and lands from Lord Headley and other gentlemen, and Lord Headley also promises to present the Church with whatever compensation he received for his portion of the advowson of Castleisland living.

A statement of deep interest to railway travellers was made, last Saturday, at the meeting of the London and North-Western Railway Company. The chairman announced that 150 miles of the line had been arranged on the block system; 400 miles were worked on their own warning system; and, in deference to public feeling, an order had been issued to work 50 more miles on the block system.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

FABRICE.—The problem last received shall have immediate attention. Does our esteemed contributor object to their being published with the author's name, or does he prefer their appearance under nom de plume?

UNCLE TOBY.—There are reasons which militate against the publication of the "Knight's Tour" so frequently as you and others propose. One of these, and an sufficient one, is the great amount of our space absorbed by the list of those who solve the puzzle.

THE KNIGHT'S TOUR, NO. IV.—The solvers of this puzzle are so numerous that we cannot find space for more than a third of their signatures this week.

INACH.—All right. Only have consideration for our very limited Chess space, and ask no more than is absolutely useful.

SAM S. CORRIGAN, Lahore; I. B. Clapham.—The lines are not pleasing, and you have failed to send with them the arithmetical solution.

A. P. Cardin.—Very welcome. Send more if you recorded them.

F. B. Lee.—I have found the syllabic key to our last Knight's Tour; but it is your ver-

sion, not ours, which is "very incorrect." Consult Marlowe's works.

M. M. SETON, SQUARE-HEADED NAILS, and Others are evidently not aware that there are different versions of Marlowe's beautiful song, "The Passionate Shepherd to his Love." It was originally printed in all but the fourth and sixth stanzas—in the "Passionate Pilgrim," 1599; it was then published complete, and subtitled C. Marlowe, in "England's Helicon," 1600; and in 1593 it was inserted in Izack Walton's "Complete Angler," as the composition of "Kit Marlowe." The text of the two stanzas we have adapted to "The Knight's Tour," No. IV., is from the earlier work named, and is better than that given by Walton. "Yield," for "yield," at the end of the first stanza, is an obvious misprint.

G. B., and Others.—"Sleepy" is not a misprint, but a very well known word to persons familiar with early English poetry. In the song "Come away, Come away," from "Macbeth," the words of which are found in the corresponding scene of Middleton's "Witch," we find it in the form of "steep,"—

Over woods, high rocks and mountaines,

Over seas, our mistrie fountaines,

Over steepy tourres and turrets,

We fly by night, monst tropes of spirrits.

And occasionally it occurs as "steepie."

LINDUM.—If Lindum will send me his name and address, and abstain from criticising arrangements which he does not understand, his contributions shall receive attention.

D. C. F., and Others.—We have no space for the signatures of these.

THE CORRECT SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 1433 has been received from I. A. B.—

Sawney—Emilia, Frau, of Lyons—Joey—Sam, Walker, Felix—B. A.—1871—Emma, Paham, Lyons—Dervon—T. H. T. W.—S. P. Q. B., of Bruges—Fanny—Medicus—J. B.—

Malvern—Sydney—H. H. Hammers—G. T. V.—E. I. Bedford—J. Dowden—N. M. Curtis—

The Knight—Clara—Presis—Auna—Juvenile—Sacristan—F. P.—G. E. B.—Venice—

Tromont—W. S. W.—G. D.—A. P. C. Kup—C. Payne—Jemima—F. R. S.—G. W. P. Hey—

Pay—L. W.—Canterbury—G. C. Heywood—Miranda—Bobby—Skinner—Regis—W. F.—

Vowley—Frederic—Fabricie—Eureka—Banshee—Box and Cox—Meg Dodd—

Pilot—E. K. S. Roland—Mercator—Tom Noddy—Jemmy—W. R. B.—Manfred and Man

Friday—Scary Sam—Ernest—G. T.—O—Hingford—Dame John—Christopher—B. Ben—

T. C. D.—E. S. Maria—Ladybird—Subaltern—E. W. B.—White Surrey—O. E.—Rock

Trygavain—Pandango—Joseph—R. T. B.—of France—C. G. Chapman.

SOLUTIONS OF THE KNIGHT'S TOUR, NO. IV., have been received from I. H. B.—

Civis—W. Watmough—Fidus—Square-headed Nails—Rob. Stewart—Old Books—L. S. N.—

N. W.—M. Seton—B. O. T. B.—H. T.—E. C.—

Joseph—James Stevens—I. M. D.—Lala and Chasse—L. and W. Hill—A. H. T.—E. C.—

I. H. Kelso—L. Penfold—E. O. C.—H. B. R. Croydon—M. M.—E. M. Wowlaw—S. O.—

W. F. Payne—H. S.—M. C.—Arthur—W. F. C.—N. M. G. Grafton—Duisier—B. A.—S. H.—

Williams—W. T. F.—F. R. S.—C. K. C., the Curragh—M. Barnes—E. J. L., of Charlton—

M. B.—Young Lady, 12 years of age—W. W. W.—Carriolea—J. B. K.—Tom Calende—

G. H.—P. L. Sharp—L. W. Clark—Great Crosby—G. D.—F. M. S.—The Chantry Ipswich—

Old Curlywig—Daisy and Enid—B. C. P.—E. J. M.—Jas. Dexter—Liverpool—F. C. N.—

P. M. L.—Broadwas—sherard B.—Burnaby—Hector—M.—G. M.—Duet—S. Gedson—

Manchester—I. D.—C. G. H.—Tunbridge Wells—Pro Patria—E. Hugomont—F.

Lynden—R. B. Moss—J. Galloway—H.—R. M. B.—A. V. Talsam—Nellie—Vaynor—

A. E. G.—W. and Poly—Yorks—Pharaxes—W. B. Gillatt—W. M. Curtis—M. P.—Torry

Hill—H. S. C. Halkin—H. S. Shakesbrook—R. D. T.—Fritz—Manchester—W. Lloyd—Tho

Dyon—Beverley—F. N.—Hartley's Mule—Mrs. L. Phipson—Westfield—Jerry—O. P. Q.—

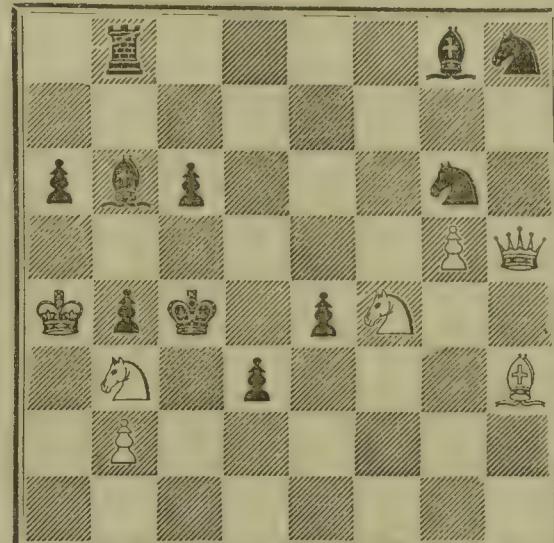
F. R. Strover—I. B.—F. Jem—E. J. C.—Dublin—I. C. Merideth—C. Poano—Lyttelton—

Nutfield. From L. W. Jenkinson—Edina—M. P.—Travellers' Club—M. M.—Ezra Cotton, we have received perfect Solutions *sydabac*, *arithmetical*, and *geometrical*.

PROBLEM NO. 1435.

By Mr. F. HEALEY.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

MALVERN CHESS MEETING.

The following off-hand affair was played, at the Malvern Gathering, between Messrs. WISKER and N. FEEDDEN. (*Gioco Piano*.)

WHITE (Mr. F.) BLACK (Mr. W.)

1. P to K 4th P to K 4th

2. Kt to K 2 3rd Kt to Q B 3rd

3. B to Q B 4th B to Q B 4th

4. P to Q B 3rd Kt to K B 3rd

5. Castles P to Q 3rd

6. P to Q 4th P takes P

7. P takes P B to Q Kt 3rd

8. Kt to Q B 3rd B to K Kt 5th

9. B to K 3rd Castles

10. P to K R 3rd B to K R 4th

11. B to Q Kt 3rd Q to Q 2nd

12. B to Q R 4th Q to K 2nd

13. B takes Kt P takes B

14. B to K 5th Q to Q 3rd

15. B to R 4th P to K R 3rd

16. P to K 4th P takes B

17. P takes B Kt takes K R P

18. K to R 2nd K to R 2nd

19. R to K Kt sq Q R to K sq

20. P to K R 5th Kt to K 6th (ch)

21. Kt to B 6th (ch) R takes Kt

22. P takes R Q takes Kt

23. P takes R Q takes Kt

24. Q to Q B 2nd R to K 7th

25. Q takes B Q P R takes P (ch)

26. K to R sq Q to K 2nd

27. Q R to K sq Kt to K 7th

28. Q to Q R 8th Here Mr. Feedden flings away all he had so well laboured for during the past dozen moves. By playing his Queen to Q 5th he must have obtained an almost irresistible advantage; for, suppose,

28. Q to Q 5th Kt to K 6th (ch)

29. R takes Kt Q takes R (ch)

30. Kt takes Q or R to Kt sq ad

and White ought to win.

28. Q to K B 2nd

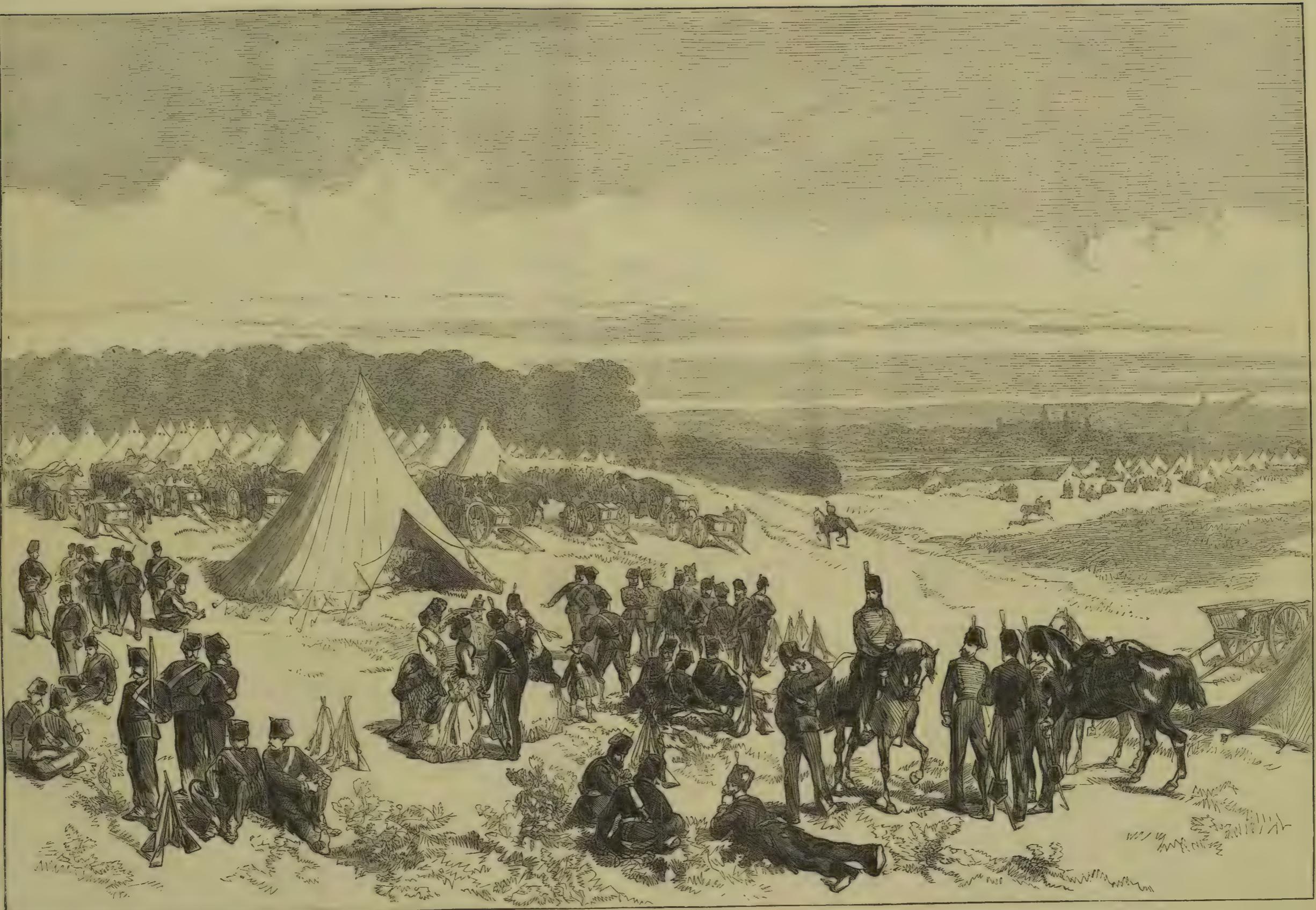
29. Kt takes P Kt takes R, and Black won the game.

SYNOPTICAL TABLE,

showing the final Result of the Play in the chief Tourney at the Malvern Chess Congress.

Burt	Coker	Fisher	Halford	Newham	Ranken	Roxley	Skipworth	Wayte	Won	Lost

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ENCAMPMENT OF THE PORTSMOUTH GARRISON.



THE MONTHS: AUGUST.

RED DEER IN AUGUST.

On the preceding page our artist has depicted a scene which transports one straight to the heart of the Highlands. The mists of early morn are clearing off, and the red deer are on the move for the day. There are few quadrupeds which present so noble an appearance as the red deer. The easy elegance of his form, the lightness of his motions, the soft and sensible sparkling of his eye; those large branches, that seem made rather for the ornament of his head than for its defence; the size, the strength, and the swiftness of this beautiful creature, all sufficiently rank him among the most noted objects of human curiosity. The senses of smelling and hearing in this animal are very acute. When he is in the least alarmed he lifts the head and erects the ears, standing for a few minutes as if in a listening posture. Whenever he ventures upon some unknown ground or quits his native covering he first stops at the skirt of the plain to examine all around; he next turns against the wind, to examine by the smell if there be any enemy approaching. If a person should happen to whistle or call out at a distance the red deer is seen to stop short in his slow, measured pace, and gazes upon the stranger with a kind of awkward admiration; if the cunning animal perceives neither dogs nor firearms preparing against him he goes forward quite unconcerned, and slowly proceeds without offering to fly. The great deer-hunts of Scotland and of the border countries are well known to all the readers of our minstrelsy. The "woful hunting" of "Chevy Chase" has been, perhaps, one of the most popular poems of any language. This union of the chase and of war was a natural alliance; for amongst a rude people personal prowess in the one was the quality which most commanded success in the other. The Scottish Kings in bygone days used to shoot the deer from an elevated seat as the packs were driven before them—a practice demanding as much enterprise and altogether as rational as the modern battle. Pennant, however, in his history of Scotland, has described a scene of much more danger, and William Barclay gives a lively picture of a "hunting-match" got up by the Earl of Athole, a Prince of the blood Royal, in 1563, for the entertainment of the Queen, and in which several of the Highlanders were killed and wounded. A wound from a stag's horn was deemed poisonous by our ancestors, as the old rhyme testifies:—

If thou be hurt with hart it brings thee to thy bier;
But barber's hand will boar's hurt heal, thereof thou need'st not fear.

Although in Scotland deer cannot be driven "with hound and horn," as was the case in the days of the "barons bold," neither can they be collected and hemmed in after the manner in which the Highland chiefs conducted their hunting; still the modern sportsman will experience the greatest delight in that most exciting and exhilarating of all amusements—deer-stalking. The sportsmen, seldom more than two in each party, set forth accompanied by a keeper, who acts as general, and they are followed by two or three Highlanders, carrying spare rifles and leading the deerhounds. Every hill is attentively examined to discover the deer that may be grazing upon it. Upon detecting a herd, a council of war is held, and the plan of operations decided upon. It is necessary to proceed with the greatest caution, as, independent of the strong sense of smelling, seeing, and hearing, which these animals are endowed with, there is always one of the herd, generally a hind, stationed as sentinel, and upon the least suspicion being excited, the signal is given and they are off. Great care is therefore taken in the approach to advance up the wind, and to conceal the party by taking advantage of the inequalities of the ground, preserving the strictest silence. It frequently happens that the sportsmen are obliged to make a circuit of some miles to get near them undetected; at other times they may find that they are in a situation from which they cannot extricate themselves unseen; in that case they must lie down till the herd move into a more favourable position for their purpose. Having arrived as near to them as is possible without detection, a good rifle shot may have his toil rewarded by knocking over a fine stag. When wounded, the deerhounds are let loose upon the track of its blood, and they never leave it until they have brought the animal to bay.

The red deer is capable of being tamed, and even trained to draw a carriage. Among the various experiments of a sporting nature performed by a former Lord Oxford, perhaps none was more eccentric than his determination to drive four red deer in a phæton, and these he had reduced to perfect discipline for his excursions and short journeys upon the road; but, unfortunately, as he was one day driving to Newmarket, their ears were saluted with the cry of a pack of hounds, which, soon after, crossing the road in the rear, caught scent of the "four in hand" and commenced a new kind of chase, with breast-high alacrity. The novelty of the scene was rich beyond description. In vain did his Lordship exert all his charioteering skill; in vain did his well-trained grooms energetically endeavour to ride before them. Reins, trammels, and the weight of the carriage were of no effect, for they went with the celerity of a whirlwind helter-skelter through the town. Fortunately, however, his Lordship had been accustomed to drive this cervine team to the Ram Inn, which was luckily at hand. Into the yard they suddenly bounded, to the astonishment of ostlers and stable-boys. Here they were luckily overpowered, and the deer, the phæton, and his Lordship were all instantaneously huddled together in a barn, just as the hounds appeared in full cry at the door of it.

Some persons consider a haunch of red deer equal to that of the fallow deer; but, generally speaking, the flesh is coarser, and it does not come up to the description of Oliver Goldsmith:—

A finer, a fatter,
Ne'er ranged in a forest or smoked on a platter.

Some black-game are also represented in our Illustration. The blackcock is now the largest of its race in the British Islands, of whose fauna it is one of the principal ornaments. In the Highlands of Scotland the blackcock is abundant, and it is found in some of the Hebrides. Northumberland has it plentifully, whilst in North Wales it occurs sparingly. Of the southern counties of England, Hampshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, and Devonshire possess it; and it is occasionally seen in the heathy parts of Sussex and Surrey. In the New Forest, and the wild heaths on the borders of Hampshire and Dorsetshire, it is perhaps more common than anywhere else in the south. The bases of the hills in heathy and mountainous districts, which are covered with a natural growth of birch, alder, and willow, and intersected by morasses, clothed with long coarse herbage, as well as the deep and wooded glens so frequently occurring in extensive wastes, are the situations best suited to the habits of this bird and most favourable to its increase.

The Ladybird steam-launch, of which we gave an engraving last week, was built by Messrs. Yarrow and Hedley, of Poplar, for Captain Boyle, Coldstream Guards.

The total number of Acts passed in the late Session was 332—viz., 117 public, 206 local, and 9 private. Last Session the total was 293, made up of 112 public, 177 local, and 4 private Acts.

MUSIC.

THE BEETHOVEN CENTENARY FESTIVAL AT BONN.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

This celebration (which, as musical readers will remember, was postponed from last year on account of the war between France and Germany) commenced on Sunday.

Beethoven's life was passed entirely between Bonn and Vienna. Born at the former place on Dec. 17, 1770, he resided there until November, 1792, when he permanently removed to the Austrian capital (to which he had previously paid a short visit), where he died on March 26, 1827, and where all his greatest works were produced. The Vienna centenary festival was duly held there, as appointed, last year; but its interest yields in importance to that of the celebration which has just taken place in the town where the grandest of all composers first drew breath and derived his earliest musical influences.

The first great public recognition of the immortal genius who has conferred everlasting renown on this quiet Rhenish town was the erection of the bronze statue of Beethoven (by Hähnel, of Dresden), which was placed in the Münster-platz in August, 1845.

The three days' festival proceedings on that occasion were directed by Franz Liszt, to whose enthusiasm and energy the fulfilment of the scheme was mainly, if not entirely, owing.

The festival now to be recorded has been under the direction of Dr. Ferdinand Hiller, the well-known composer and excellent principal of the Cologne Conservatoire, with whom was associated Herr von Wasielewski, of Bonn. The principal singers engaged were Frau Otto-Alvsleben, from Dresden (soprano); Frau Amalie Joachim, from Berlin; and Fraulein Franziska Schreck, of Bonn (contralto); Herr Vogl, of Munich (tenor); and Herr A. Schulze, from Hamburg (bass). Herr Joachim was the solo violinist and Mr. Charles Hallé the solo pianist—both well known to the English public, and both identified by birth with the nationality of the occasion. Dr. Franz Weber (organist of Cologne Cathedral) presided at the organ.

The orchestra consisted of 111 performers, including the organist, and the chorus of 373 voices. The two principal first violins were Herr von Konigslow, of Cologne, and Herr Ludwig Straus, from London. The hall, hastily built (of wood) for the festival of 1845, was taken down some time since, and a more permanent structure erected in the Vierocks-platz, capable of holding about 1600 persons, and excellent in its acoustical qualities and the convenience of the general arrangements.

Several preliminary and general rehearsals were held, both before and during the progress of the festival, all the preparations for which were made with a deliberate care that contrasted strongly with the hurry that frequently prevails in London.

A little after six o'clock on Sunday evening the festival was inaugurated in the new Fest-Halle by a performance of the "Missa Solemnis," the second and last grand piece of Catholic service music produced by Beethoven—a work on which he bestowed his highest art-powers and most earnest thought and care. As the mass referred to belongs to a late period of Beethoven's career, its selection for the opening piece in the programme involved some inversion of the order of date, but had the effect of giving an impressive solemnity to the occasion, which was felt as highly appropriate to the important significance of the ceremonial. The mass, intended for the installation of Beethoven's pupil and patron, the Archduke Rudolph, as Archbishop of Olmütz, occupied the composer's attention from the close of 1818 until the middle of 1822, its completion having occurred two years too late for its original purpose. Of its grandeur and vastness of conception, elevated sublimity of style, and wondrous structure, much has been said by the present writer in recording its several London performances within recent years. The associations under which it was heard on the occasion now referred to, in the native place of the composer, within a stone's throw of the house in which he drew the first breath of life, gave special interest to the wondrous music of the "Missa Solemnis." The performance was throughout admirable for precision and attention to light and shade in all the details, orchestral and choral; and the very difficult solo passages were given with true German sentiment and earnestness by Mesdames Alvsleben and Joachim, and Herren Vogl and Schulze. In the exquisite "Benedictus" the violin obbligato was excellently played by Herr Straus.

The closing portion of the first day's programme was devoted to the symphony in C minor (No 5), that Leviathan orchestral piece in which Beethoven's individuality is almost as conspicuous as in his many other representative works. The execution of this by the fine orchestra assembled was remarkable alike for technical precision, intellectual reading, and admirable contrast of light and shade. A more successful inauguration in every respect than that of Sunday could not have been; the sublime nature of the music and the serious earnestness of the purpose took away (even from English prejudices) all notion of irreverence in the choice of the opening day.

The second day of the festival was devoted to a more miscellaneous selection than that of the opening programme. The third of the "Leonora" overtures was followed by the march and chorus from the music which Beethoven wrote for Kotzebue's "Ruins of Athens"; after which Herr Joachim played the violin concerto with that splendour of tone, style, and execution so often commented on in reference to his London performances. In the choral fantasia which followed Mr. Charles Hallé also renewed an agreeable home impression by his rendering of the all-important pianoforte solo part, the instrument—a magnificent Broadwood "concert-grand"—having been sent expressly from London. In the piece now referred to the good quality of tone and other excellent characteristics of the choristers were again manifested. The vocal solo passages were sung by Madame Otto-Alvsleben, Mdles. Büschgens and Schreck, and Herren Schneider, Vogl, and Schulze. The noble "Sinfonia Eroica," magnificently played, closed the second day's proceedings. So fine a performance as that of the work last referred to has perhaps scarcely ever been heard, and its termination was hailed with the most enthusiastic applause, a similar demonstration having followed Herr Joachim's delivery of the concerto. The overture, the fantasia, and the symphony were admirably conducted by Dr. Ferdinand Hiller, the other pieces having been carefully directed by Herr Wasielewski.

The remaining festival performances must be noticed next week.

A series of promenade concerts, under the direction of M. Rivière, commenced, on Saturday last, at Covent-garden Theatre, with every prospect of success. The house has been elegantly decorated, and, crowded as it was on the opening night, presented an extremely brilliant appearance. The programme included a grand triumphal march, called "The Return of Richard Coeur de Lion," composed and conducted by Prince Poniatowski; a selection from Mendelssohn's "Songs without Words," arranged for full orchestra, military band, and chorus, by M. H. Basquit; "The Bridesmaids' Waltz," composed and conducted by Mr. D. Godfrey; and a quick

march, "Lusitania," by Sir Julius Benedict, all which were received with the most enthusiastic applause. Miss Flora Heilbron (stated in the programme to be thirteen years of age) and Mdle. Carreno were the solo pianists; and Mdle. Jenny Claus played Vieuxtemps's "Ballade et Polonaise" on the violin. The vocalists were Mdle. Fanny Rubini, Madame Haydée Abrek, Madame Demeric-Lablaque, Mdle. Liebhart, Signor Rocca, and Mr. Whitney. The orchestra, consisting of one hundred performers, conducted by M. Rivière, was thoroughly satisfactory; and efficient aid was rendered in several pieces by a full military band, selected from the Grenadier Guards and Royal Artillery. The duration of these performances is limited to six weeks; and as it is announced that the first part of the programme will be devoted on Wednesdays to classical and on Fridays to sacred music, all tastes will be amply appealed to.

The triennial Gloucester Musical Festival, as already announced, is fixed for the first week in September. The programme is printed. There is a catalogue of over one hundred stewards, but the list of principals engaged does not include several old familiar faces which were wont to show at Worcester, Hereford, and Birmingham. They are Mdle. Titiens, Madame Cora de Wilhorst, and Miss H. R. Harrison, sopranos; Madame Patey and Miss Martel, contraltos; Mr. Vernon Rigby, Mr. E. Lloyd, and Mr. Bentham, tenors; and Mr. Lewis Thomas, Mr. Brandon, and Signor Foli, basses; M. Sainton and Mr. R. Blagrove lead the band; Dr. S. S. Wesley, by virtue of his office of organist of Gloucester Cathedral, is conductor; Mr. E. Townshend Smith (Hereford Cathedral), organist; and Mr. Done (Worcester Cathedral), pianist at the evening concerts. The chorus is supplied by London and numerous provincial towns. The Festival Sermon, on the first day, will be preached by the Rev. Canon E. D. Tinling. The festivals, it is well known, are held for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the poorer clergy within the dioceses of Worcester, Gloucester, and Hereford. Hitherto there have been at Gloucester four sacred morning performances and three secular evening concerts; but this year Gloucester follows the example set at Hereford last year, and holds a sacred performance in the cathedral on the first evening. The oratorios, &c., will be taken in the following order:—Tuesday morning, Sept. 5, Handel's "Dettingen" "Te Deum" and oratorio "Jephtha"; Tuesday evening, Haydn's "Creation" and Handel's "Israel in Egypt"; Wednesday morning, Mendelssohn's "Elijah"; Thursday morning, Sebastian Bach's oratorio "The Passion"; an oratorio, "Gideon," by Mr. W. G. Cousins, and a selection from Spohr's "Calvary." On Friday morning, as usual, the festival proper closes with Handel's "Messiah." The two evening concerts on Wednesday and Thursday include a selection from Handel's "Acis and Galatea," from Weber's "Preciosa," and Mozart's "Figaro," with the usual miscellaneous selections.

THE THEATRES.

The Gaiety Theatre suddenly closed on Saturday, the weather having been too warm for such heavy performances as Mr. Walter Montgomery had announced. On that occasion he supported the character of Richard the Third, in Cibber's version of the tragedy. It is, perhaps, not too much to say that Mr. Montgomery is the best Richard of modern times. He has caught the manner of the Kean school, and effects the points and transitions with a vigour that is strangely impressive and indicative of more than clever imitation. His greatest successes have been in similar rôles—such as Sir Giles Overreach and Louis XI. His best character, however, has been Orlando, which was truly Shakespearean. He has been guilty, too, of some eccentricities—disguising himself as Meg Merrilies, and showing her would-be representatives how they should act her. Unsatisfactory as the short season may have been, in many respects, it has sufficed to demonstrate that Mr. W. Montgomery is an actor of great talent, and to establish his reputation. We regret to learn that he has not found it worth while to remain in England, which much needs an actor of his capacity and judgment.

The Olympic suddenly closed on Friday, on the forty-fourth night of the performance of "Daisy Farm;" and the Vaudeville on Saturday, with the powerful drama of "Tweedie's Rights." We are happy to find that the experiment at the Charing-Cross has been successful, and is likely to be productive of further benefit.

The Royal Amphitheatre, Holborn, closed for the season last evening, and will reopen on Saturday, Sept. 16. Mr. Charman, the proprietor, has just returned from a tour through France, Germany, Belgium, &c., and has succeeded in engaging for his forthcoming season a combination of talent.

At the Gallery of Illustration Mr. German Reed has ventured upon a novelty which is likely to become popular. Mr. Arthur Sketchley has supplied a dramatic sketch, entitled "Near Relations," which many will recognise as a transcript from real life. He has laid his scene among the lakes, and his action relates to the return of a Baronet to the ancestral seat, to which he is welcomed in a trio by Miss Holland, Mr. Grain, and Mr. Cecil. The last gentleman is the heir in disguise, affecting to be a young artist. Sir John Marchmount, the holder of the property, is supposed to be childless, and therefore his relatives crowd about him in hope of benefiting by his will. A seventeenth cousin, Mrs. Major Gull, has strong hopes, proportioned to the distance of her relationship, and is powerfully represented by Mrs. German Reed. Mr. Reed also represents a village gossip, Mr. Tozer, who looks forward to a legacy as the recompense of his efforts to amuse. The same gentleman also supports a similar character with variations under the name of Dr. Squills. The concerted music and the songs are admirably scored, and there are some adaptations of Moore's melodies which may be extended with advantage. The conclusion of the entertainment presents us with Mr. Corney Grain in a new buffo scene from "Romeo and Juliet;" and the commencement of it in his very diverting sketch of "The Fancy Fair." As the successor of Mr. John Parry, Mr. Grain has secured his place in the public estimation.

In our account, published on the 29th ult., of the Wimbledon rifle meeting, there was a slip of the pen which concerned the sort of rifles used by the eight English competitors for the Elcho challenge shield. Seven of these gentlemen used the Metford patent rifle, manufactured by Mr. G. Gibbs, Cornhill, Bristol. The Rigby patent rifle was used by Captain Heaton alone. The statement then made was just the reverse.

Sir Stafford Northcote had invited the Conservative working men of Devonshire to spend a day at his seat in that county, Pynes; and about 6000 guests responded, on Monday, to his invitation. In the course of the day Sir Stafford made a speech, in which he referred to his visit to America. He assured his hearers that the great mass of the American people, with whose views he had the opportunity of becoming acquainted, had an earnest desire to be on friendly terms with the people of this country.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

The Stockton and Oxford fixtures unfortunately clashed at the end of last week, and, as a natural consequence, the "weakest went to the wall," and no horses of high character put in an appearance at Oxford. The Hardwicke Stakes, in which, it will be remembered, both Pretender and Hawthornden suffered defeat, was the chief two-year-old event of the week. The Druid, a very clever son of Dundee and Coimbra, secured a clever victory from a field of twelve. He carried the top weight (9 st. 1 lb.), and the merit of the performance is enhanced by the fact that Indian Princess, who, in receipt of 14 lb., ran second to him, won a race on the following day. The Druid is still undefeated, and is sure to find plenty of Derby backers. Ringwood's St. Leger prospects were completely blighted in the Great Northern Leger, for Field Marshal beat him so easily that he is scarcely likely to start at Doncaster. John Scott's horse, however, had to be satisfied with half the stake; for Mdlle. de Mailloc, with 10 lb. the best of the weights, stuck to him in the most determined style, and a dead-heat was the result. Friday's racing was singularly uneventful; but the victory of Agility over Nobleman put her Ebor Handicap backers in better spirits again.

The York meeting, which took place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday last, was one of the most important that has ever been held on the Knavesmire, and the second day not only gave us a favourite for the St. Leger, but witnessed the defeat of the hitherto invincible Cremorne. Old Vulcan commenced proceedings by carrying off the Zetland Stakes; but he appeared to have some little difficulty in conceding 14 lb. to Ralph Lambton, and is probably beginning to get stale, from his incessant work. True to its traditions, the Yorkshire Oaks was won by an outsider, and it was "hard lines" on Mdlle. de Mailloc to be beaten by Rebecca, as, judging by the Stockton running of the pair with Ringwood, she held her quite safe. The fact of Albert Victor shirking an engagement, on Tuesday, which appeared at his mercy, created a strong prejudice against him; so, though he was only opposed by Field Marshal and Digby Grand in the Ebor St. Leger, 2 to 1 could always be obtained about him, and the uncertain Beckhampton colt was once more made favourite. The pace was very poor till a quarter of a mile from home; but Albert Victor, who was conceding 4 lb. to each of his opponents, won so very easily at the finish that 5 to 1 was taken about him several times for the great event at Doncaster, and he was firmly established at the head of the quotations. Field Marshal beat Digby Grand far enough for second place, but neither can have any chance for the Leger. Cremorne's two races were also very interesting. He just managed to win the first, though he had the greatest difficulty in conceding 8 lb. to Indian Princess; but then, in spite of his want of condition and the severe race he had already run, he was most unwisely brought out to meet the invincible Onslow in a paltry stake. When two unbeaten colts are pitted against each other "then comes the tug of war," and after a desperate set-to, in which Cremorne seemed to have all the best of it till close home, want of condition told its tale, and Onslow fairly wore him down. The winner, a son of Cambuscan and Dulcibella, has now carried off five successive races. The two-year-old running at Stockton and York points to The Druid as the best of his year; for, while he gave Indian Princess 14 lb. and a clever beating, Cremorne could only just concede her 8 lb. Too much importance must not, however, be attached to the latter's running at York, for he was clearly short of work, and, if his two severe gallops have not injured him, he may show in quite different colours at Doncaster. The hollow victory of Not Out (7 st.) in the Ebor Handicap recalls to mind his capital performance in the Cesarewitch last year, and makes us wonder how he could have run so badly in the Cambridgeshire and Chester Cup. Agility (7 st. 10 lb.) did not disgrace herself; but nothing else made the semblance of a fight with the winner.

Messrs. Tattersall held a gigantic sale of blood stock at Rawcliffe, near York, on Monday last, for they offered the brood mares, foals, and yearlings belonging to the Rawcliffe Stud Company, the stud of the late Mr. Eastwood, and many miscellaneous lots. The Rawcliffe mares went very cheaply, only three getting beyond two figures, and of these Sister Isle (200 gs.) was the highest-priced one. Only nine yearlings were disposed of, and these were knocked down "at a great sacrifice." Mr. Eastwood's mares did better; for Lady Alice Hawthorn (the dam of Lord Hawthorn, who, we may mention, died from breaking a bloodvessel early this week) was bought by Lord Scarborough for 500 gs., and Buttercup made 210 gs. The sales at York on Tuesday and Wednesday were very dull indeed; yet, though there were few buyers present, the well-known steeplechaser Snowstorm realised 720 gs.

"After going a mile, Renforth took a fit, and nearly fell out of the boat. . . . Poor Renforth has just died." Such is a portion of the telegram conveying the melancholy result of the great Anglo-Canadian four-oared race. At the time of writing no particulars have reached England, and we can only give a short summary of the brilliant career of the best sculler that ever sat in a boat. He was born at Gateshead, in 1842, and did not appear in public till the commencement of 1867. Having won ten sculling-matches in succession, and always with plenty in hand, he challenged Harry Kelley for the championship, in November, 1868, and defeated him almost as he chose; in fact, so hollow an affair was it that the Thames man did not care to try to recover his lost laurels, nor could Joseph Sadler ever summon up courage to tackle the redoubtable Northerner, though in the Thames Regatta of 1869 both he and Kelley were easily beaten by Renforth. The latter then tried to concéde John Bright two lengths' start in open boats; but after several fouls the race was given against him. Then came the two great four-oared matches between the Thames and Tyne, in which he was stroke of the latter boat, and secured two easy triumphs. These contests brought about a double sculling-match, in which Kelley and Sadler were opposed to Renforth and Taylor, and this time the Thames men turned the tables. The Anglo-Canadian match of last year must be fresh in the recollection of our readers, and a quarrel which occurred among the Tyne four while they were in America produced a pair-oared match, in January last, in which Renforth and Kelley rowed right away from Taylor and Winship. These are the chief particulars of the great sculler's short career of triumph. His fame has never been dimmed by the slightest scandal, and in all his races he only knew one way—the way to the winning-post.

We can only give a few lines to the cricket of the week. Yorkshire, as might have been expected, beat Surrey by ten wickets. The latter seemed to possess a good chance, being 11 runs in advance at the end of the first innings, thanks chiefly to the fine bowling of Mr. Anstead; but R. Humphrey's 35 was the only double figure in the second innings, which ended for 72, and Greenwood and Rowbotham hit up the required 84 between them. On the Trent Bridge ground Notts obtained a decisive victory (also by ten wickets) over the formidable Gloucestershire team. Mr. W. G. Grace (79 and 116) fought hard for his county; but he was not well backed up, as there were only five other double figures in the two innings. The chief contributors to

the Notts score of 364 were T. Bignall (96), Mr. Royle (45), Daft (84), and Mr. R. Tolley (54); while J. C. Shaw took thirteen wickets in the course of the match. The defeat of Surrey by Gloucestershire, at the end of last week, in one innings, by nine runs, was chiefly noticeable for the splendid batting of Messrs. T. G. Matthews and G. F. Grace, and R. Humphrey, who respectively scored 201, 89, and 70 for their counties.

THE FARM.

The slight rain of the past week has done as yet no harm to the harvest; the crops, however, have ripened so quickly that the difficulty is in gathering them. Reaping-machines have been employed as much as possible; but, the straw being in many parts much laid and twisted, it is almost impossible to mow with them, and the scarcity of hand labour, especially in the midland counties, is much felt; consequently, many fields are standing, fully ripe, without the power of cutting them. Although late, harvest is quite a week earlier than the untoward summer led most people to anticipate. Wheat on the fen-lands is found to be a little mildewed and blighted, but on good farms is a fair average crop; whilst others have cut three loads of straw to the acre, the ear turning out thinly corned and yielding badly. Barley and oats are also thought to be light. There is much uncertainty about the fruit crops, and, according to the *Agricultural Gazette*, they are only moderate in Scotland and the north. Orchards are generally thin, and apples and pears are partial and variable. The cold spring injured the trees, particularly on east walls, and they have suffered much from blight; still, most wall-fruits are plentiful, though late, and often small. Cherries, except Morellos, were scarce, and strawberries abundant, but deficient in flavour; whilst the small fruit-trees were sadly cut up in the spring. Walnuts are not so plentiful, but other nuts abound.

At Bradford sheep fair the supply was much below the average, and prices 1s. to 2s. cheaper per head than at Weyhill. The chief demand was for lambs, which were 10s. to 15s. dearer than last year, and went from 30s. to 50s.; ewes, from 48s. to 56s.; and wethers, from 48s. to 51s. A remarkably fine lot of ewes fetched 70s.; and one hundred lambs, fed without corn, were sold for 53s. each. Sir E. Hulse won the champion cup for the best one hundred wether lambs, for which 76s. were asked and 73s. bid. Horses were also short in number, and fetched long prices. At Horn-castle fair the supply was rather short; but the value during the last two years has risen fully one fourth. Young horses and colts were numerous, and almost any price could be asked for very handsome animals. Hunters were greatly in demand, and those of high reputation fetched as much as 200 gs. to 300 gs., promising young Irish horses ranging from 70 gs. to 170 gs. Army horses were sought both by home and foreign contractors, and good strong ones went from 40 gs. to 65 gs. each. Young harness horses ranged from 70 gs. to 140 gs., riding nags and colts from 50 gs. to 80 gs., and generally a good trade was done.

Mr. Geo. Sanday, who succeeded his father at Holme Pierrepont, sold his small flock by auction last week; 36½ gs. was the highest price for the thirteen rams, and of the thirty-six lambs 6 gs. was the top figure. The eighty-five ewes ranged from 3½ gs. to 6 gs., the best pen making 6½ gs., whilst 3½ gs. was the highest quotation for ewe lambs. At Mr. Stamper's sale one ram fetched 30 gs., and the lot averaged £8 9s. There was a great improvement in prices, as there has been at most of the sheep sales and lettings this year, in consequence of more stock being carried on farms, and kept being promising and abundant.

The show season is gradually drawing to a close. At the Birmingham horse show most of the well-known prize horses—Laughing Stock, Borderer, Loiterer, and others—were present, and, as usual, winners. Agricultural horses were confined to one class for stallions, the premium going to Mr. H. Tomlinson's Clydesdale Young Lofty, who was bred in Scotland and is a well-known winner; Mr. Manning's Young Champion, a favourite Northamptonshire horse, came second. At the noted Keighley show, in Yorkshire, most of the prize shorthorns were present—Mr. Outhwaite, Mr. Stratton, and Lady Pigot taking first prizes. The hunters were a very fine lot—Mr. J. B. Booth and Mr. H. Johnson winning the first premiums. Mr. Richard Stratton, whose name has been so many years prominently before the public at these exhibitions, passed away, on Aug. 15, in his sixty-second year. He stood close to Booth and Towneley as one of the leading and most successful exhibitors, and several thousand pounds were won by him in money premiums; he always considered it, even if only partially successful, a paying business. His shorthorn herd (started thirty years ago from a good market cow and crossed with pure-bred bulls) does not stand as yet so high among breeders, but all over the southern and western counties is as much esteemed as his fine judgment was respected.

A link of a long chain in the borough of Boston has been broken by the death of William Wedd Tuxford, who has just passed away at the advanced age of ninety years. In the discharge of various important duties devolving upon him in private life, as well as in a long and active political career, he displayed a conscientious independence and integrity of action. But it is in relation to his connection with agriculture that we treat of the respected deceased in this column. He founded the well-known firm of Tuxford and Sons, general engineers and ironfounders, of Boston; but had previously established a scientific reputation as inventor of a process for "reeing" wheat, &c., by machinery. The firm soon acquired a widespread notoriety by the introduction of portable steam-engines, combined thrashing machinery, and other high-class engineering productions. For many years the Royal Agricultural Society of England awarded their first prizes to Messrs. Tuxford and Sons' portable steam-engines; and only a month ago it awarded the prize to the firm for their novel and improved windlass for steam cultivation, so that it may fairly be said the deceased died in harness, with honours upon him.

The Countess of Loudoun gave, at Donnington Park, last week, two school feasts to the children of the Sunday schools of the various parishes in which her Ladyship's extensive estates are situated. Upwards of 1300 persons—clergy, teachers, and children—were entertained during the two days.

The Commander-in-Chief has conferred the command of the northern military district, the head-quarters of which are in Manchester, on Major-General George Jackson Carey, C.B., Brigadier-General of the Second Infantry Brigade at Aldershot; the first five years' staff service of Major-General Sir J. Garvoe, K.C.B., now in command, expiring on Oct. 1.

On Tuesday morning the mail-train from Leeds to London ran into a number of waggons, which had broken loose from a goods-train, at the Mount Sorrel junction on the Midland Railway. The waggons were smashed to atoms, the driver of the mail-train sustained a compound fracture of the leg, but the passengers escaped with a severe shaking.

NEW ROYAL YACHT OSBORNE.

This vessel, built at Pembroke Dockyard, and now fitting out at Portsmouth for the service of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, is approaching completion, and lately made a successful trial of her machinery round the Isle of Wight, preparatory to her official trial of speed over the measured mile. Commander Robert H. Swinton, of her Majesty's ship Asia, was in command of the ship. The Osborne steamed out of Portsmouth Harbour, and, after slowly threading her way through the entrance channel as far as the Spit Buoy, had full steam given to her engines, and the course laid through Stokes Bay for the Solent. In running past the measured mile marks time was taken, and the speed of the ship then found to be at the rate of 15·291 knots per hour, the steam-pressure being 24 lb., or 6 lb. under the maximum the boilers will doubtless give on Monday; and the revolutions of the paddle-wheels, twenty-eight per minute, are three under their maximum rate. The Osborne measures 250 ft. in length between perpendiculars, but has an extreme length from stemhead to tail of 278 ft. Her extreme breadth over the paddle-boxes is 62 ft. 6 in., but her breadth of hull for tonnage is 35 ft., with a depth of hold of 23 ft. Burden measurement (o. m.), 1541 tons; displacement of load line, 1594 tons; midship section, 371 square feet. She was launched at Pembroke in December of last year, and her draught of water then was 7 ft. 8 in. forward and 11 ft. 6 in. aft; her intended load line being 15 ft. draught of water forward and 14 ft. 6 in. aft.

Her engines are from the workshops of Maudslay, Sons, and Field, and are of the nominal power of 450 horse. The cylinders, oscillating, are 80 in. in diameter, with a stroke of piston of 7 ft. The two paddle-wheels are each 27 ft. 6 in. in diameter, are fitted with feathering floats each 11 ft. 6 in. in length by 3 ft. 7 in. in breadth. The emersion of the lower floats with the ship at her load line is 2 ft. 3 in., measuring from the upper edge of the lower float. Four boilers, each having 450 brass tubes, supply steam to the engines, and are loaded to 30 lb. to the square inch on the safety valves. The two funnels are each 72 in. in diameter, and stand 46 ft. above the fire-grate. The superheaters have flattened tubes, the steam passing through the tubes at the chimney root. The superheaters can be shut off very easily when required and with the boilers at work. The coal-carrying capacity of the ship is very limited, being only equal to thirty hours' steaming at full speed. At two thirds, or a ten-knot rate, however, her coal would carry her over long distances. The great consumption of coal lies in the speeds between ten and fifteen knots.

The performance of the ship's engines and boilers through the trial were considered by the officers superintending to have been most satisfactory.

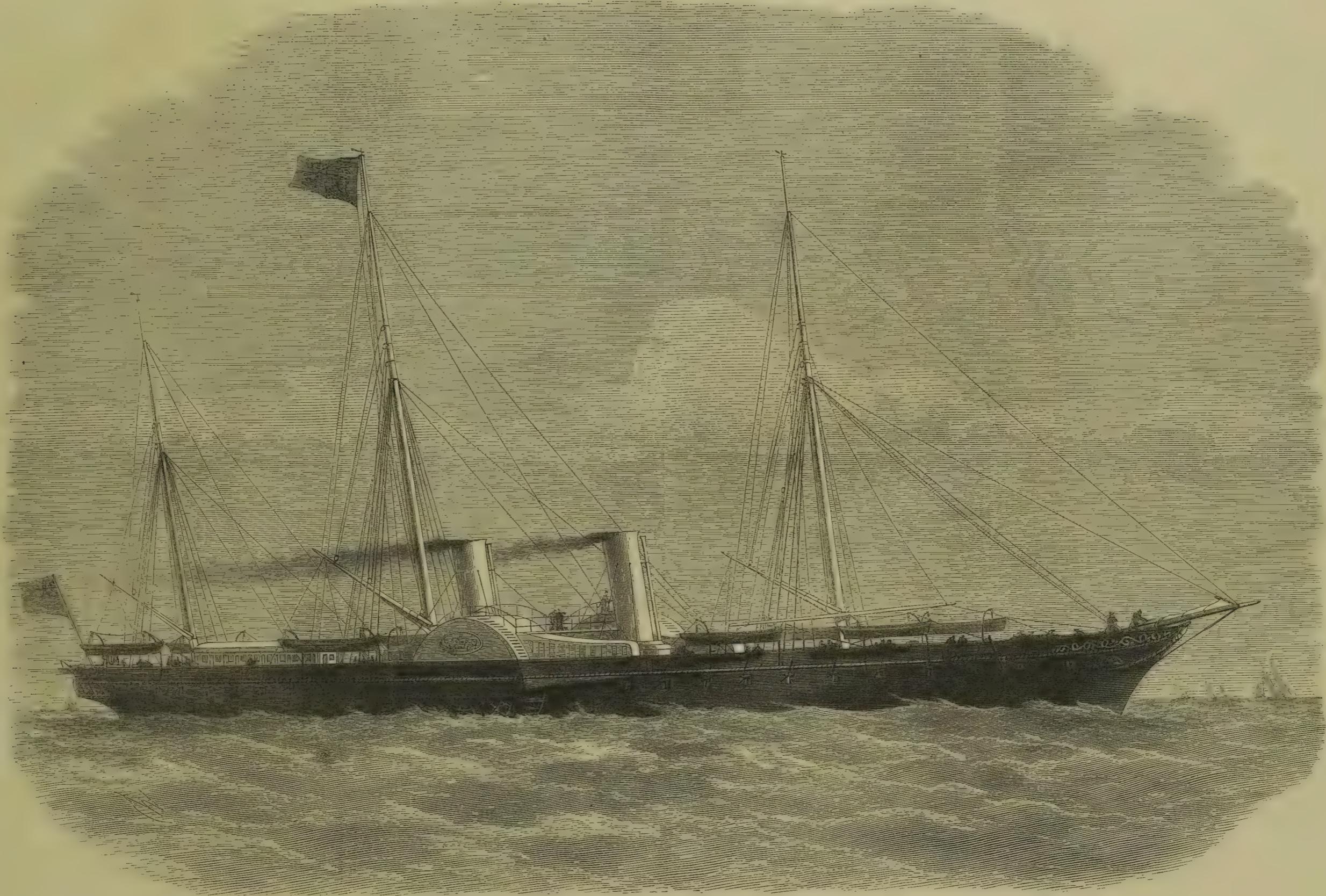
EXTRAORDINARY AFFAIR AT BRIGITON.

A most extraordinary case is under investigation by the Brighton magistrates. According to the statements published, an attempt has been made to poison several persons by sending them presents of eatables. The Chief Constable of Brighton has offered a reward of £20 for the discovery of the sender of the parcels. Some of these were conveyed by post, and others by rail. On being opened, they were found to contain cakes, sweetmeats, and fruits, and in some cases a cake was wrapped up separately, and specially addressed to the mistress of the house. In most cases the cakes were found to contain poison.

The particulars of two cases are given, and are as follow: "At about mid-day, on Thursday last, Aug. 10, two white deal boxes, one being about 14 in. long by 12 in. wide, and the other about 10 in. square, were left at the Victoria Railway Station, addressed to different persons in Brighton, to whom they were delivered the same evening. The carriage of both boxes was prepaid, and when opened they were found to contain cakes, and in each box were a few cakes done up in a piece of paper separately from the others, and on one of these papers the following was written:—'A few home-made cakes for the children; those done up are flavoured on purpose for yourself to enjoy. You will guess who this is from; I can't mystify you, I fear. I hope this will arrive in time for you to-night, while the eatables are fresh.' The other paper had writing on it to the like effect, but with the initials 'G. M.' attached. The cakes which were in the papers have since been found to contain poison."

Suspicion having been fixed on Miss Edmunds, about thirty-five years of age, she was arrested and taken before the borough magistrates, charged with having attempted to poison Mrs. Emily Beard, the wife of Dr. Beard, a physician practising in Brighton. It was deposed that she was intimately acquainted with Dr. and Mrs. Beard, the former having attended her professionally. A coolness, however, arose, owing to the circumstance that the prisoner had some time since taken a number of chocolate drops to Mrs. Beard's house, one of which she placed in that lady's mouth, and the result was that it caused her to be very unwell. Dr. Beard had his suspicions at the time; but, being unable to prove anything, he was compelled to let the matter rest. After this the accused continued to write frequent letters to Dr. Beard in such an affectionate strain that he was compelled to ask her to desist. This was about three weeks ago, and shortly afterwards the mysterious parcels began to arrive. In one received by Mrs. Beard there was a cake. She very narrowly escaped being poisoned by it—two of the servants who ate a portion of it being made very ill. It was also stated to the magistrates that a few months ago, at the inquest on a little boy who had died from the effects of poison contained in some chocolate creams alleged to have been obtained at a large confectioner's in Brighton, the accused came forward as a witness and said that she had herself suffered from eating sweetmeats bought at the same establishment. She then wrote to Dr. Beard and sought to explain the supposed attempt to poison Mrs. Beard with a chocolate drop some months previously by the facts revealed at the inquest. At that time also several parcels of sweets were discovered in the town, distributed in a very mysterious manner. It should also be stated that recently a quantity of strychnine has been obtained from a chemist by a forged order purporting to come from another chemist, and that shortly afterwards the book in which the chemist registered the sale of poisons was obtained by an order to which the name of the borough Coroner was forged, and some of the leaves of the book were torn out.

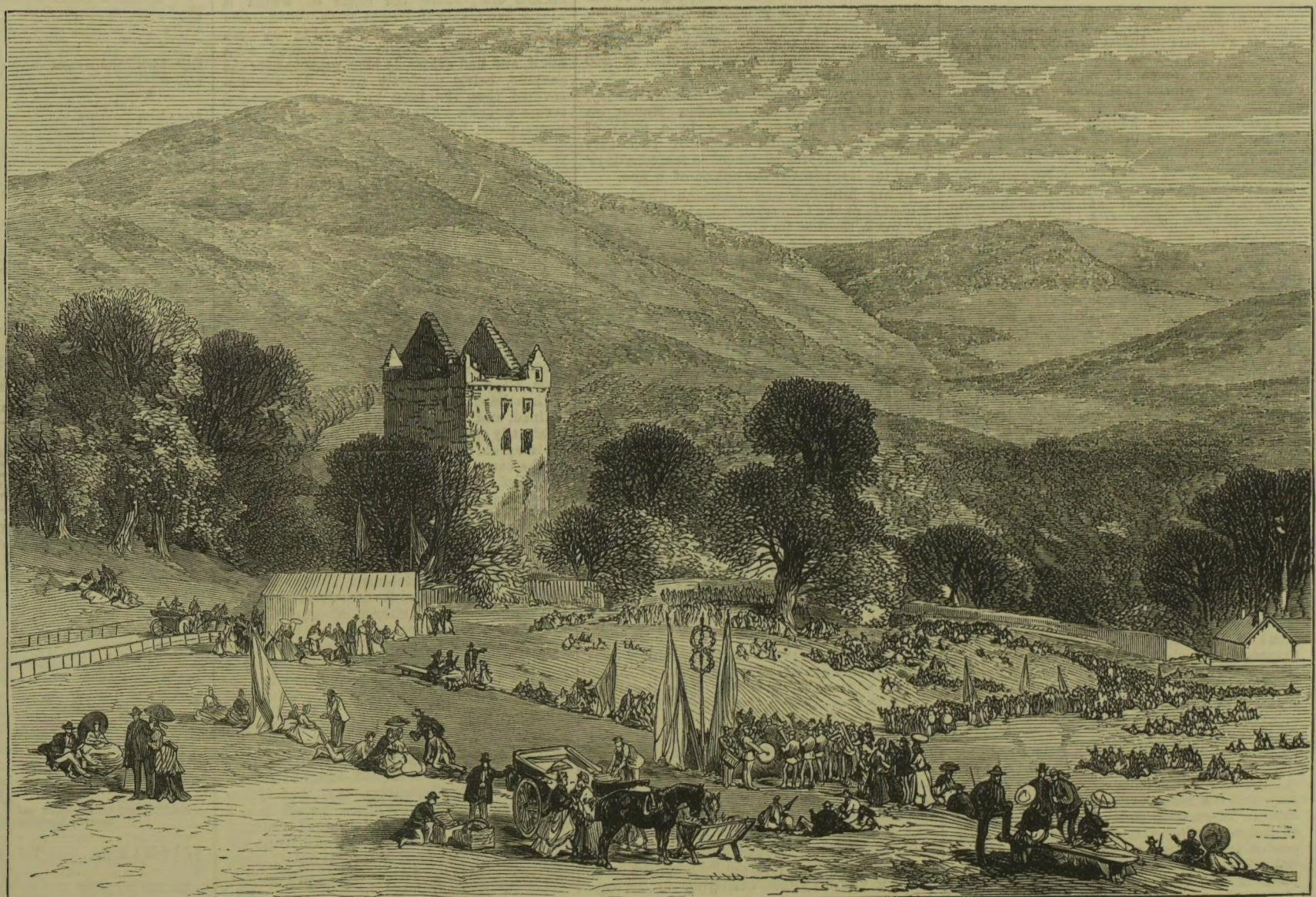
On Thursday the case was again brought before the magistrates, when Mr. Isaac Garrett, chemist, 10, Queen's-road, deposed to having sold Miss Edmunds strychnine three times, at her earnest request. The quantity supplied each time was ten grains, and on two occasions the prisoner said it was wanted to kill cats which annoyed her and her husband very much; the third quantity she said was required to kill an old, diseased dog, as she and her husband were going into Devonshire to reside. In the presence of Miss Edmunds and that of Mrs. Stone witness (Mr. Garrett) entered in his book the prisoner's name and address, as given by her—Mrs. Wood, Hillside, Kingston.



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S NEW STEAM-YACHT OSBORNE.



SIGNOR MARIO.



THE SCOTT CENTENARY: FETE AT NEWARK CASTLE, SELKIRK.

SIGNOR MARIO.

The specialty of the closing week at the Royal Italian Opera—indeed, it might be said the chief event of the musical year—was the farewell benefit of Signor Mario, when the great tenor appeared avowedly for the last time on any stage. The opera selected for his final dramatic performance was "La Favorita," in which his representation of Fernando has long been considered one of his most effective displays of histrionic and declamatory power. It was in June, 1839, that Signor Mario first appeared in England—at Her Majesty's Theatre. Born to a title (Marquis of Candia), Signor Mario, an officer in a Sardinian regiment, was early esteemed in private circles as an amateur singer possessed of a tenor voice of remarkably beautiful quality. Circumstances having induced him to cultivate the art as a profession, he made his débüt at the Paris Grand Opera in the season preceding his first appearance in this country. For some years it was chiefly by the quality of his voice that he attracted attention. In his style of singing, as in that of his acting, traces of his amateur antecedents were long perceptible. These, however, gave place to a rare perfection of vocal phrasing and expression, and a high excellence in declamation and stage action, such as have rarely, if ever, been combined by any other dramatic tenor. At first, in the characters of musical comedy—especially as Count Almaviva in "Il Barbiere"—and later, in such parts as that in which he recently appeared for the last time, as Raoul in "Les Huguenots," Manrico in "Il Trovatore," Faust in Gounod's opera, and other heroic impersonations, Signor Mario developed the rare qualities alluded to. Unfortunately, his voice began to decline when his best powers as an actor became most conspicuous. To the last, however, the cultivated singer was apparent under all his vocal disadvantages. At his farewell performance, in the great scene where Fernando upbraids the King, and casts back upon the Monarch the gifts and honours bestowed as the price of his disgrace, Signor Mario again roused the audience to a display of the wildest enthusiasm. The reception of the singer throughout was such as strongly showed the esteem in which he has been held, and the universal regret that his failing powers of voice should have rendered his retirement unavoidable.

The Portrait of Signor Mario is from a photograph by Messrs. W. and D. Downey, of London and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THE SCOTT CENTENARY FESTIVAL AT SELKIRK.

The celebration of the Scott Centenary was continued, as we learn from the *Scotsman*, on the 15th (Scott's birthday), in a series of demonstrations extending over a wide extent of Scotland. As was to be expected, the Border towns of Galashiels, Melrose, Kelso, Hawick, Jedburgh, Selkirk, and Peebles showed much enthusiasm; Innerleithen, on the Tweed, the place described in "St. Ronan's Well," also kept this festival. In the west, Glasgow and Paisley had festivals subsidiary to that of the 9th; while more than one town to the north of the Forth joined in the celebration.

The 15th was observed as a holiday at Selkirk. The Duke of Buccleuch had thrown open his grounds at Newark for the occasion, and it was arranged that a procession should leave the town during the forenoon for that place, where games of various descriptions and dancing should take place. The town of Selkirk, like the town of Hawick, may be congratulated upon having taken advantage of its proximity to one of the spots rendered famous by Sir Walter, in his "Lay of the Last Minstrel," to have the celebration there. On Saturday, the 12th, the public bodies of Hawick held festival at Branxholm—the scene of the story told by "The Last Minstrel"; and Selkirk followed suit by holding its rejoicings at Newark Castle—the spot where the aged minstrel recited his "lay" to Anne, Duchess of Buccleuch and Monmouth. The old tower of Newark stands upon the banks of the Yarrow, within the Duke of Buccleuch's park of Bowhill, and between three and four miles from Selkirk. The castle was built by James II., and was afterwards assigned by James IV. to Margaret, sister of Henry VIII., upon his marriage with that Princess. Latterly it came into the possession of the House of Buccleuch, and has since been retained by them. It was within this castle that the prisoners taken at the battle of Philiphaugh were executed by General Leslie. Now the massive square tower is unroofed and ruinous. Wordsworth, in his "Yarrow Revisited," well describes the scene. The procession extended about a mile in length, and had a rather imposing appearance. A diversion was made on the approach to Philiphaugh, the procession passing over the scene of the battle of Philiphaugh. On arrival at Newark, the procession formed in front of the castle, when Provost Anderson proposed three cheers for the Queen, and then three cheers for the Duke of Buccleuch, which were heartily given. The Provost next proposed "The Memory of Sir Walter Scott" in an able speech, concluding with the statement that Scott had a peculiar claim on the people of Selkirk, for he had long been their "Shirra." The bands of the 4th Roxburghshire and 2nd Selkirkshire Rifle Volunteers then began to play, and the lads and lasses joined in many a dance. There were foot-races, and a variety of games, during the afternoon. The procession was re-formed about five o'clock, and returned to Selkirk. A public dinner took place in the County Hotel in the evening.

Provost Anderson occupied the chair. The croupiers were the Rev. Mr. Farquharson and Mr. William Brown. Speeches on the subject of Sir Walter Scott's genius and character, and on the historical and literary traditions of Scotland, were delivered by several gentlemen. The dinner was followed by a public entertainment at the Volunteer Hall, where a series of pictorial views were exhibited, illustrative of the life and works of Scott, and many songs and pieces of instrumental music were performed.

LAW AND POLICE.

Mr. Richard Nathaniel Philipps, of the Inner Temple, has been appointed Recorder of Pontefract, in succession to Mr. Hannay, the new police magistrate. Mr. Philipps, who was called to the Bar in 1841, and who goes the Northern Circuit, is a magistrate for Yorkshire and Middlesex and a member of the Corporation of London.

Mr. T. Sidgreaves, of the Northern Circuit, who has occasionally sat as Deputy Judge in the Liverpool County Court, and as deputy stipendiary magistrate at Birkenhead, has been appointed to a judgeship in the East. The new Judge's circuit will include Singapore, Penang, Borneo, and other settlements. The salary is £2500 per annum.

At the Sheriffs' Court Mr. W. S. Johnson, proprietor of the *London Journal*, has been awarded £125 damages in an action brought by him against Mr. Lister, publisher of the *Conservative Standard*, published at Glossop, the latter having, without authority, republished a tale called "Dick Tarleton," which originally appeared in the *London Journal*.

A man came before the magistrate at Worship-street, on Tuesday, saying that he wanted "a little matter settled." He married a wife about a year ago on the understanding that she was a widow. She told him her husband was a sailor, and that she had not seen him for so long that she believed he was drowned. One day last week, while the applicant was at work, some one came to him and said that his wife was at home with another man. He left the shop to see into the matter, and when he reached home he found his wife with a man, who had his arm round her neck. She refused to come away; and when the applicant claimed her as his wife, the new comer said, "No; she was his." The woman herself said she loved the other man best, and she had not returned to the applicant since. The magistrate wished to know the nature of the assistance required. The applicant said that he wanted the matter settled one way or the other; on which the magistrate said he thought that it was settled "the other way." The first husband had evidently returned, and she was his wife. If the applicant thought that the woman knew the sailor was alive when she married the second time, he could give her into custody for bigamy, but he would have much to prove.

Mr. Farrah, a publisher in the Strand, was charged on Tuesday, at Bow-street, with having published a libel upon Edward Walter Pock, the young man recently tried for the murder of Elizabeth Clousen, at Eltham. The libel consisted of a pamphlet in which the trial was discussed. Mr. Straight, M.P., who appeared for the defendant, expressed the regret of his client that he had published the pamphlet, which he did in the belief that it was a fair comment on the trial in question. The defendant was committed, two sureties of £50 each being accepted.

A respectably-dressed man, named Purday, was convicted at the Mansion House, on Monday, of having, whilst in a state of intoxication, violently assaulted two City policemen, and was sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour, without the option of a fine.

Henry Edmonds and Jeremiah Clark were indicted, at the Central Criminal Court, yesterday day, the first for obtaining goods by false pretences, and the second for feloniously receiving the same. It appeared that Edmonds obtained goods from the Victoria Meat Preserving Company and from various firms by means of forged orders, and that the property was taken to the premises of Clark, at Greenwich. The jury returned a verdict of "Guilty," and each prisoner was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. Green and Newth, the two men charged with having, in concert with others, been guilty of a large number of embezzlements, were tried and convicted. It was stated that seven other men had been previously tried and convicted on charges arising out of the same series of transactions. The prisoners were sentenced each to eighteen months' hard labour.

Wm. Dyson Taylor, who was taken before the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, yesterday week, charged with embezzling £4000, the moneys of his employers, at Manchester, was taken to that city, and brought before the magistrates on Saturday. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

A domestic servant named Parkes was charged, on Tuesday, at the Manchester Police Court, with stealing about £300 worth of jewellery and other property belonging to her master, Mr. Taylor, of Booth Hall, Blackley, and a young woman named Styles was charged with receiving some of the property, knowing it to be stolen. A large portion of the stolen property was found by the police in the possession of the prisoners, who were remanded. Bail to the extent of £500 or £1000 was offered for Styles and refused.

George E. Wills, a young clerk, was charged on Monday, at the Liverpool Police Court, with stealing various sums belonging to his em-

ployers, Garnock, Bibby, and Co., ship chandlers, Liverpool. The prisoner had left the office on the 11th inst., and was apprehended on the 18th at the Cathedral Hotel, St. Paul's-churchyard. In the interim his books had been examined, and it was found that he had been systematically defrauding his employers by entering in the cash-book payments larger than he had really made. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and stated that his defalcations altogether amounted to £1000, and that he had been led to commit the frauds by losses in betting. When apprehended, a passage-ticket to Australia by the True Briton was found upon the prisoner. He was committed for trial.

Joseph Johnson, a journeyman butcher, was charged at the Birkenhead Police Court, on Tuesday, with gross cruelty to a dog, in skinning it alive. Mr. Hannan represented the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and, remarking that his Worship never had such an instance of cold-blooded cruelty brought under his notice as that of which Johnson had been guilty, asked that the law should be strictly enforced against him. The magistrate sent the prisoner to gaol for three months, with hard labour.

A Prestwich newsagent, named Peter Booth, has been sentenced to seven days' imprisonment for stealing a voting-paper at the last election for the Prestwich Local Board.

At the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, on Tuesday week, William Hamilton Thomson, Sheriff-Substitute of Inverness, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude for forging the name of the Solicitor-General to a bill for £200 and to a promissory note for £120, and also the name of the Sheriff-Principal of Inverness to a note for £100.

An inquest upon the little boy, George Knight, who was alleged to have been starved to death by his mother, the wife of a labourer in Bermondsey-square, was concluded on Tuesday afternoon, and resulted in a verdict of "Manslaughter" against both parents.—At Gosport, on the same day, a woman was convicted of cruelty of a similar character to her infant, but as in this case the child survived, she escaped with three months' imprisonment.

At Stow Bedon, on Tuesday, Mary Harmer, the wife of a labourer, cut the throat of her infant daughter, aged fifteen months, as well as that of her step-daughter, an idiot girl, eighteen years of age. Seven years ago the woman was insane, and twelve months ago she attempted to destroy her own life. She has been committed for trial.

Mrs. Carrington, the wife of an astronomer living in a sequestered portion of the Weald of Surrey, was nearly murdered, on Saturday, by William Rodney, who lived at 13, Denbigh-street, Pimlico, and had been in the habit of calling at the observatory. This man called at Mr. Carrington's residence, and had some conversation with his wife, by whom he was admitted into the house, Mr. Carrington being from home at the time. Shortly afterwards loud screams were heard by the servants, who, on rushing into the front hall, saw the prisoner and Mrs. Carrington struggling together and the floor bespattered with blood. The prisoner at once left the house. A walking-stick belonging to the prisoner and a large, spring-backed clasp-knife, the blade of which is nearly five inches in length, were picked up on the spot where the affray occurred in the hall. This formidable weapon was covered with blood, and had evidently been procured for the purpose, being perfectly new. It was discovered that the lady had received several severe wounds. The assailant, on leaving the house, made his way to a neighbouring inn, where he was apprehended. The outrage is the result of jealousy, the prisoner having paid his addresses to his victim prior to her marriage with Mr. Carrington. He is fifty-two years of age, and was formerly a private in the 4th Dragoon Guards.

A few days since some masons, while engaged repairing an old house at the village of Offerton, near South Hylton, occupied by Robert Riseborough, a blacksmith, came upon the remains of a child, which had evidently lain where it was found for many years. The workmen were busy removing the floor of an attic, when one of their picks came in contact with a hard substance. The place was examined, and the men were surprised to find, as already stated, the body of a child wrapped up in an old apron. No flesh, of course, was on the bones, the mere skeleton being all that remained. The apron was quite intact, with the exception of that portion which had covered the head. The fact of the body of a child being found in such a place is thus accounted for by the neighbours:—Thirty years ago the house was occupied by a gentleman named Robinson Nicholson. A domestic servant with him was tried at Durham Assizes on a charge of murdering an illegitimate child, supposed to have been borne by her. Medical men fully proved that she had had a child, but the police were unable to find the body. The child now found is supposed to be the child in question. There are some interesting associations connected with the house, which bears the date of 1032—having been built 839 years ago (?)—being one of the oldest houses in the country. It is stated that Oliver Cromwell occupied it for a time as his head-quarters, and that Queen Mary abode in it for a night. An old dirk, a cannon-ball, old coins, and an aged scabbard have at different times been found about the premises. The walls of the house are of stone, the front ones being 4 ft. or 5 ft. in thickness.—*Northern Daily Express.*

Provost Anderson occupied the chair. The croupiers were the Rev. Mr. Farquharson and Mr. William Brown. Speeches on the subject of Sir Walter Scott's genius and character, and on the historical and literary traditions of Scotland, were delivered by several gentlemen. The dinner was followed by a public entertainment at the Volunteer Hall, where a series of pictorial views were exhibited, illustrative of the life and works of Scott, and many songs and pieces of instrumental music were performed.

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